

## Steve Hopkins' Bookshelves

### This Bookshelf: All Books Authors H through M

#### Links to Other Bookshelves

Web Page	PDF (Searchable)
<a href="#"><u>All Books Authors A through G</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>All Books Authors A through G</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>All Books Authors H through M</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>All Books Authors H through M</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>All Books Authors N through Z</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>All Books Authors N through Z</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Current Bookshelf: 2021 Books</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Current Bookshelf: 2021 Books</u></a>

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 H 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](mailto:books@hopkinsandcompany.com) to request what you want.

### Key to Ratings 1999-2012

Outstanding book-read it  
now

\*\*\*\*\*

Highly recommended

\*\*\*\*

Recommended

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Mildly recommended

\*\*

Read if your interest is  
strong

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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

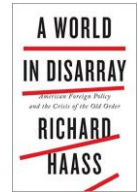
Title (Click on Link to purchase at amazon.com)	Author(s)	Rating	Blog Date	Comments	Click on Picture to Purchase at amazon.com
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A World in  
Disarray :  
American  
Foreign Policy  
and the Crisis of  
the Old Order

Haass, Richard

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



Stephen Florida

Habash, Gabe

\*\*\*\*\*

9/25/17

**Winning.** After I finished racing through Gabe Habash's novel titled, Stephen Florida, the one word that came to mind was "wow." The first-person narrator, Stephen, is a college wrestler and the novel is set mostly in the final season of senior year that culminates in a championship match. Habash's finely written prose draws readers into the complicated and troubled mind of Stephen as he focuses obsessively on winning. What appears on one level to be a common coming of age story shifts to a study of a person's descent into madness. At another level, it is a story of loneliness and love. On one level this is a character study of a loner; on another level, it as an exposition of the complexity and depth inside each of us. On one page Stephen is a jerk and on the next page Stephen is you and me.



Reinhardt's  
Garden

Haber, Mark

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



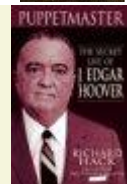
Puppetmaster:  
The Secret Life  
of J. Edgar  
Hoover

Hack, Richard

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Feb 05

**Excesses.** More sad than sensational, this life of Hoover highlights all the demons he fought, and the life of fear he created and led.

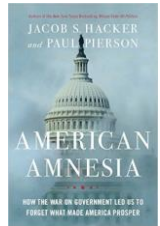


American  
Amnesia: How  
the War on  
Government  
Led Us to Forget  
What Made  
America  
Prosper

Hacker, Jacob S.  
and Paul Pierson

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.



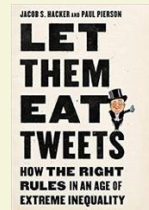
Let Them Eat  
Tweets: How  
the Right Rules  
in an Age of  
Extreme  
Inequality

Hacker, Jacob S.  
and Paul Pierson

\*\*\*\*

8/5/20

**Plutocrats.** Spend a little while reading Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson's book titled, Let Them Eat Tweets: How the Right Rules in an Age of Extreme Inequality, and you'll begin to marvel about how a tiny minority of successful American plutocrats have gotten unpopular things done to their advantage. Hacker and Pierson describes the methods by which a few rich and powerful individuals have commandeered the levers of political power and built up unlikely coalitions to protect or enhance wealth and power for the few. This effort has been building over a long period of time and the current environment is the consequence of gradual changes and incremental steps. Readers interested in public policy and political science are those most likely to enjoy this engaging book. In case you haven't noticed, this is a great time in America to be a plutocrat. The authors of this book explain why and how that happened.



Off Center: The  
Republican  
Revolution and  
the Erosion of  
American  
Democracy


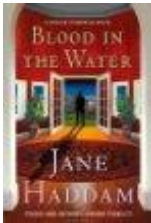
Hacker, Jacob S.  
and Paul Pierson

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

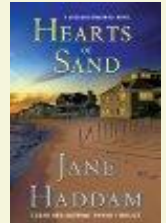




<a href="#"><u>Disturbance of the Inner Ear</u></a>	Hackett, Joyce	**	<a href="#"><u>Mar 03</u></a>	<b>Lingering Melody.</b> Debut novel embraces the cello, grief, concentration camp life and its aftermath, love, loyalty, and survival. Tightly written inner and outer journey of a fascinating woman and a cello named the Savant.	
Blood in the Water	Haddam, Jane	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<a href="#"><u>Fighting Chance</u></a>	Haddam, Jane	****	<a href="#"><u>9/26/14</u></a>	<b>Justice.</b> Fans of character-driven crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy the latest Gregor Demarkian novel by Jane Haddam titled, <a href="#"><u>Fighting Chance</u></a> . This is the 29 <sup>th</sup> novel in this series featuring a cast of Philadelphia characters led by Gregor, who retired from the FBI's behavioral science unit. In the current novel, his friend, the Armenian priest Father Tabor, has been arrested. Plot twists abound, red herrings swim in many directions, and most readers will close this book full of satisfaction with a story well-told.	
<a href="#"><u>Flowering Judas</u></a>	Haddam, Jane	***	<a href="#"><u>9/9/11</u></a>	<b>Layers.</b> Jane Haddam's new novel, <a href="#"><u>Flowering Judas</u></a> , will satisfy most readers of mystery novels, especially those who like the assurance and stability that comes from a recurring detective. Gregor Demarkian unravels this case, as expected, while readers are presented with the twist of the detective's distraction because of his concern for the health of his ninety nine year old friend and neighbor, George Tekemanian, who was taken to the hospital as Gregor was called to solve an out of town murder. Haddam explores many layers and levels of familial concern in this novel, and draws readers into both the light and dark sides of close and extended family life. This likeable protagonist can deal with grisly matters and come away with his	

humanity intact, to the great pleasure of readers who like things to be resolved in the end.

**Angles.** I let Jane Haddam's latest Gregor Demarkian novel titled, Hearts of Sand, sit on the shelf for months after its release. I wanted to read it in the summer, and I did that with great pleasure recently. Demarkian agrees to consult on a murder case in the small and wealthy Connecticut town of Alwyck. Haddam allows the clues to unfold at a moderate pace as Gregor works all the angles to figure things out. There's another murder that increases the pace, and without spoiling the plot, Gregor solves it through a process of elimination that involves some very specific angles. Readers who like mysteries are those most likely to enjoy this novel and the series.



Hearts of Sand

Haddam, Jane

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7/28/14

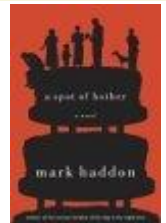
A Spot of Bother

Haddon, Mark

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Dec 06

**Quirky.** Talented writer uses all his skills to make the ups and downs of the extended and quirky Hall family a pleasure to read. Readers will be undecided whether to laugh or cry.



Boom!

Haddon, Mark

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6/2/10

**Spunky.** I decided to read Mark Haddon's new novel, Boom!, because I thought his debut novel, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night was the best debut novel of 2003. The new novel is a rewrite of an earlier work of Haddon that was a bit of a publishing flop. As a result of Haddon's rewrite, Boom is a fun book that will appeal especially to pre-teens. I laughed, and expect that kids who read this will enjoy it. Consider it for a vacation book to read aloud in the car.



[The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time](#)

Haddon, Mark

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[Sep 03](#)

**Unique.** Creative debut novel uses a narrator with autism to reveal the story and allow readers a glimpse into the world view of those with autism. Best debut novel read so far this year.



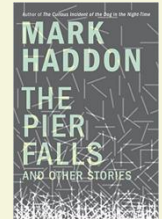
[The Pier Falls](#)

Haddon, Mark

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[6/17/16](#)

**Humanity.** We are each tested by the turmoil of life. Sometimes the tests are life threatening. Sometimes we can despair at our human condition. Mark Haddon explores those extremes and our survival in nine finely written short stories assembled in a collection titled after one of them, [The Pier Falls](#). Haddon captures emotional intensity with great skill in these stories. Readers who like finely written prose and the efficiency of the short story genre are those most likely to enjoy these stories.

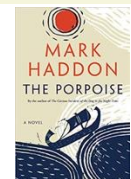


[The Porpoise](#)

Haddon, Mark

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



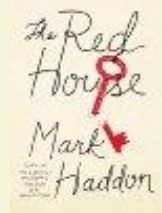
[The Red House](#)



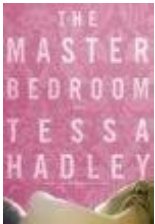
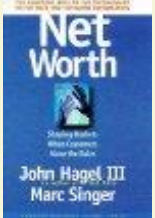
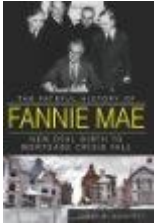
Haddon, Mark

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[7/16/12](#)

**Holiday.** Fans of literary fiction with a high tolerance for confusion and frustration are those most likely to enjoy Mark Haddon's novel, [The Red House](#). An extended and estranged family gathers for a holiday and Haddon unpacks their personal baggage with a mix of descriptive prose, witty dialogue and serial interior reflection by each of the eight characters. At times, I found myself re-reading a sentence to figure out what Haddon was describing. While his prose is often beautiful, it isn't always obvious. Each character is struggling with something, and the change in location for a holiday along with new characters for interaction provide fresh ways for the struggles to be exposed. Read an excerpt before buying the book. Chances are the



				excerpt will test your tolerance and lead you to proceed or quit.	
Everything Will Be All Right	Hadley, Tessa	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
Sunstroke and Other Stories	Hadley, Tessa	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
The Master Bedroom	Hadley, Tessa	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Net Worth: Shaping Markets When Customers Make the Rules	Hagel, III, John and Singer, Marc	***	<u>6/99</u>	If you're a senior executive with any interest at all in capturing customer information effectively, read this book.	
<u>The Fateful History of Fannie Mae: New Deal Birth to Mortgage Crisis Fall</u>	Hagerty, James R.	***	<u>12/18/12</u>	<p><b>Quasi.</b> Readers looking for a deeper understanding of the rise and fall of Fannie Mae will find a crisp account of the past seven decades of that organization's highlights and lowlights in James R. Hagerty's book, <u>The Fateful History of Fannie Mae: New Deal Birth to Mortgage Crisis Fall</u>. Bob Hagerty is a reporter for <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> who has covered the mortgage business and the government sponsored enterprises (GSEs) extensively. He relates how a public purpose was paired with private capital to create a quasi-</p>	

governmental entity that became the largest holder of residential mortgage debt. Political machinations over many years led to inadequate capital and a weak regulatory framework. Investors took gains in the good years and taxpayers are now covering losses. I worked at Freddie Mac from the mid-1970s to the late-1990s, so I know the subject of this book from an inside perspective. Hagerty gets all the headlines right in this book. There is more to each story than what he presents, but those nuances may be meaningful only to those who were immersed in the business. General readers will find in this book a cogent presentation of how Fannie Mae came to be, to grow and to generate huge losses. Any reader with an interest in public policy, especially relating to housing, will enjoy reading this book.

<a href="#"><u>This Life: Secular Faith and Spiritual Freedom</u></a>	Hägglund, Martin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion	Haidt, Jonathan	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<a href="#"><u>Man in the Middle</u></a>	Haig, Brian	***	<a href="#"><u>Mar 07</u></a>	<b>Retaliation.</b> Sean Drummond returns, now working temporarily for the CIA, and embroiled in a thrilling case of revenge.	

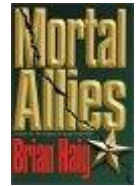
Mortal Allies

Haig, Brian

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Jul 02

JAG Sean Drummond returns to defend an Army officer accused of murder. Great plot momentum for 500 pages.



The Capitol Game

Haig, Brian

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9/21/10

**Accountability.** Brian Haig's latest novel, The Capitol Game, tells a story of financial shenanigans that kept me engaged for all four hundred pages, despite some distracting ways in which Haig doesn't understand business. What he does well is keep the plot moving, as his protagonist, Jack Wiley, lives true to his name as he carefully skirts the boundaries of illegal activity. Greed leads certain characters to fall into Wiley's traps and the whole idea of accountability for behavior becomes a theme of the novel. Any reader looking for an action thriller will find excitement in the world of government contracting and private equity that Haig presents here.



The Hunted

Haig, Brian

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12/14/09

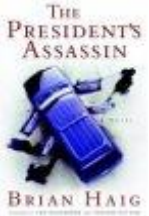
**Brains.** Alex Konevitch, the protagonist of Brian Haig's new novel, The Hunted, beats his adversaries with brainpower over brawn. Konevitch built up a successful business in Russia until a former KGB employee stole it out from under him. Alex and his wife flee Russia, trailed by assassins. A complicit FBI director cooperates with Russian bureaucrats who want Alex brought back to Russia for "justice" in exchange for the advance of American interests. Haig presents a fast paced tale in The Hunted, which is based on a true story. Every setback leads to another advance, and Alex is both talented and effective as he strikes back against his enemies. While this novel is a departure for Haig from his series featuring JAG lawyer Sean Drummond, it shares one common element: a protagonist larger than life, and in some ways too

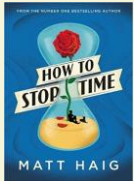




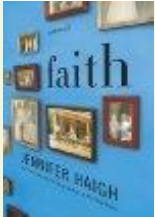
good to be true. [The Hunted](#) provides thrilling entertainment that most readers will enjoy.

<a href="#">The Kingmaker</a>	Haig, Brian	**	<a href="#">Mar 03</a>	<b>Uncle.</b> Haig pumped out too many pages without honing his writing skills. With his latest, we cried “uncle.” Predictable plot in military, legal non-thriller.	
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<a href="#">The President's Assassin</a>	Haig, Brian	**	<a href="#">Nov 05</a>	<b>Smarts.</b> Author reprises Army lawyer Sean Drummond who pairs up with an FBI agent to try to protect the President. Lots of gratuitous violence that smarts, brainy people with smarts, and exposition that drags.	
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<a href="#">How to Stop Time</a>	Haig, Matt	****	<a href="#">3/3/18</a>	<b>Old.</b> The creative premise that drives the plot of Matt Haig’s novel titled, <a href="#">How to Stop Time</a> , is that a small group of people in the world age at a rate much slower than the rest of us. Protagonist Tom Hazard is one such individual, and he’s still around although quite old, given that he was born in 1581. Haig draws readers into Tom’s long and interesting life including stints as a musician for Shakespeare, a jazz artist in 1920s Paris, and now as a history teacher at a high school. Readers may never again think about time and aging in the same way as before meeting Tom Hazard.	
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Baker Towers	Haigh, Jennifer	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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<a href="#">Faith</a>	Haigh, Jennifer	****	<a href="#">6/7/11</a>	<b>Saved.</b> Jennifer Haigh chose an unlikely situation for her latest novel, <a href="#">Faith</a> , and the result gave me hours of reading satisfaction. She selected the clerical abuse scandal in Boston as her tension, and uses the sister of an accused priest as the narrator of the story. Haigh dives into the ways in which	
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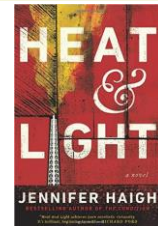
clerical formation programs dehumanized priests, and how a family's secrets became the principal dynamic in relationships. This is a heartwarming story of family, loyalty, love, doubt, faith, forgiveness and salvation. Thanks to Haigh's fine writing, the story unravels with care, and is likely to appeal to readers who enjoy the opportunity to think and reflect that a good novel can provide.

[Heat and Light](#)

Haigh, Jennifer

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.



[News from Heaven: The Bakerton Stories](#)

Haigh, Jennifer

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[4/5/13](#)

**Place.** The fictional coal mining town of Bakerton, Pennsylvania, is the place that links the ten stories in a new collection from Jennifer Haigh titled, [News from Heaven](#). The stories present the lives of people in or from Bakerton in prosperity and in decline. After I finished the last story, I felt as if I knew Bakerton and these people. Haigh's prose uses just the right amount of descriptive language and character development to complete each story. Any reader who likes short stories and finely written prose should consider reading this fine collection.



The Condition

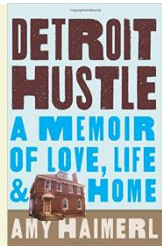

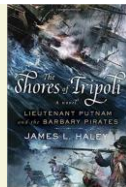

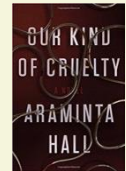
Haigh, Jennifer

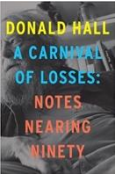

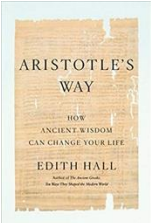
Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009


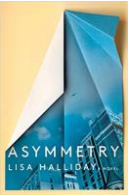





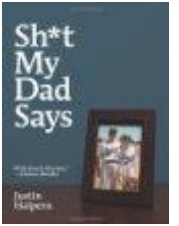
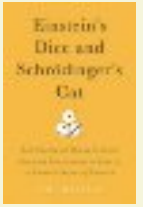
<a href="#"><u>Detroit Hustle: A Memoir of Life, Love, and Home</u></a>	Haimerl, Amy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<a href="#"><u>The Teammates: A Portrait of a Friendship</u></a>	Halberstam, David	***	<a href="#"><u>July 03</u></a>	<b>Friends Forever.</b> Ted Williams, Johnny Pesky, Bobby Doerr and Dominic DiMaggio didn't just play baseball on the same team, they became lifelong friends. Read and find out from an award-winning writer why they have no regrets about how they've lived their lives.	
<a href="#"><u>The Shores of Tripoli: Lieutenant Putnam and the Barbary Pirates</u></a>	Haley, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<a href="#"><u>With All Due Respect: Defending America with Grit and Grace</u></a>	Haley, Nikki	****	<a href="#"><u>1/24/20</u></a>	<b>Blunt.</b> Nikki Haley's memoir titled, <a href="#"><u>With All Due Respect: Defending America with Grit and Grace</u></a> , is a political novelty. She doesn't speak out of school and settles few scores on these pages (one or two worthy targets get their comeuppance again, bless their hearts.) Based on timing, this is also not the opening salvo in a political campaign. It is a blunt appraisal of many contemporary issues, and a personal story about how Haley's life experience and principles guided her actions in public life. Agree or disagree with her positions, but read her story with an open mind, willing to listen to a story of what made her the person she is today.	
<a href="#"><u>Our Kind of Cruelty</u></a>	Hall, Araminta	****	<a href="#"><u>9/12/18</u></a>	<b>Games.</b> Fans of dark psychological fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy reading Araminta Hall's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Our Kind of Cruelty</u></a> . V and Mike have a relationship built around a game involving desire and an irregular line between a made-up sex game and reality. After V marries Angus, Mike	

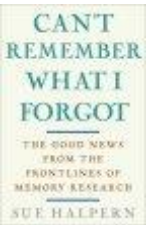




			believes this is a sham wedding and part of the extended game, so he remains in love with V and tries to suss the next move in the game. Hall draws readers into Mike's troubled mind as the story grows ever darker.	
<a href="#"><u>A Carnival of Losses: Notes Nearing Ninety</u></a>	Hall, Donald	****	<a href="#"><u>12/17/18</u></a>	<p><b>Words.</b> Fans of fine writing will be delighted by Donald Hall's book titled, <a href="#"><u>A Carnival of Losses: Notes Nearing Ninety</u></a>. There are short and long reflections in this book, about people and places, that are so beautifully written in an unwavering voice that I found myself savoring the word choices and the wisdom of what is being recalled. His writing about his late wife, Jane, was profound and conveyed his deep pain of loss. Many of us lose our filters as we age, and what comes out orally or in print is painfully honest. Even in the lightest vignettes of this book, Hall shows off his great skills as a writer, an original and talented voice.</p> 
<a href="#"><u>Essays After Eighty</u></a>	Hall, Donald	****	<a href="#"><u>12/4/15</u></a>	<p><b>Mortality.</b> I imagine that if by the time of one's eightieth birthday, thoughts of death haven't become frequent, the individual may be out of touch with reality. Donald Hall remains in full grasp of reality, as his prose shows in a new book titled, <a href="#"><u>Essays After Eighty</u></a>. The parts about smoking, drinking and driving are so finely written that I reread some sentences multiple times. Fans of Hall's poetry may see some threads in these essays. Any reader who enjoys fine writing will find something to like in this short collection.</p> 
<a href="#"><u>Aristotle's Way: How Ancient Wisdom Can Change Your Life</u></a>	Hall, Edith	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2019.	

<a href="#"><u>The Case of the Deadly Butter Chicken</u></a>	Hall, Tarquin	*****	<a href="#"><u>9/10/13</u></a>	<p><b>Revenge.</b> India's Most Private Investigator Vish Puri is back on the job in Tarquin Hall's novel, <a href="#"><u>The Case of the Deadly Butter Chicken</u></a>. This series provides classic crime fiction set in India. A strong protagonist, Puri, gets to the bottom of the case after several interesting twists and turns. There is a crime that may be one of revenge, and Puri's mother is also on the case. Readers who don't know much about India and the 1947 partition will learn a thing or two while being entertained. I've liked this series, and look forward to reading the next installment.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Case of the Love Commandos</u></a>	Hall, Tarquin	*****	<a href="#"><u>4/7/14</u></a>	<p><b>Identity.</b> Fans of character-driven crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading Tarquin Hall's latest Vish Puri novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Case of the Love Commandos</u></a>. Readers of the earlier books in the series will enjoy the reprise of the familiar cast of characters, and the way in which Hall presents with a sharp eye for detail contemporary issues of life in India. In this outing, there's an exploration of caste differences, genetic testing, rape, corruption and murder. Both Puri and his mother continue to use their skills to get to the bottom of what's happening.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Case of the Man Who Died Laughing: From the Files of Vish Puri, Most Private Investigator</u></a>	Hall, Tarquin	***	<a href="#"><u>10/26/10</u></a>	<p><b>Tricks.</b> The second novel by Tarquin Hall to feature India's most private detective, Vish Puri (Chubby), is titled, <a href="#"><u>The Case of the Man Who Died Laughing</u></a>. Fans of the debut novel will remember the returning cast of characters, especially Mummy, and the skill with which Hall brings the sights and sounds of India to the pages of the novel. The plot involves scientists, gurus and magical tricks, but plot is secondary here to the ways in which the characters come alive, no matter what they are doing. Most readers will find the novel to be entertaining and enjoyable and those who love</p>	

				<p>Indian cuisine can almost taste the foods that Chubby consumes as he solves the mystery.</p> <p><b>Chubby.</b> Tarquin Hall's mystery novel, <a href="#"><u>The Case of the Missing Servant</u></a>, introduces readers to a memorable detective, Vish Puri. Known to old friends and family as Chubby, Vish Puri runs Delhi's Most Private Investigators Ltd., from which he and his staff spend most of their time performing investigations on potential marriage candidates to be sure that families aren't surprised by skeletons in the closets of a bride or groom. While part of <a href="#"><u>The Case of the Missing Servant</u></a> uncovers sensitive information about a bridegroom, the bulk of this mystery involves the disappearance of a servant and Puri's efforts on behalf of his client to prove that he did not murder the missing girl. Vish Puri has the grey matter to solve a case with the skill of a Hercule Poirot, the ability to draw information from others along the lines of Mma Ramotswe, and a distinctly 21<sup>st</sup> century Delhi temperament. Readers who love India or mysteries will enjoy reading <a href="#"><u>The Case of the Missing Servant</u></a>.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Case of the Missing Servant</u></a>	Hall, Tarquin	***	<a href="#"><u>12/12/09</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>City on Fire</u></a>	Hallberg, Garth Risk	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<a href="#"><u>Asymmetry</u></a>	Halliday, Lisa	****	<a href="#"><u>3/3/18</u></a>	<p><b>Inequality.</b> We seem to be living during a time of great differences and conflicts that can become defining for the prospects and lives of individuals. Lisa Halliday presents several aspects of inequality in her novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Asymmetry</u></a>. Structured in three sections, the novel opens readers to pondering many different questions throughout the finely written narrative. In this first section, we see the unequal relationship between an elderly renowned</p>	

male novelist and a young woman in her twenties who works in publishing. Halliday presents these two complex characters in ways that demand a reader question memory and the feelings behind the behaviors described. The second section presents an Iraqi American narrator who has been detained at airport border control in London. The final section presents an interview with the eminent writer after he wins a Nobel. Fans of literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy reading this finely crafted debut novel.

<a href="#"><u>Bad Paper: Chasing Debt from Wall Street to the Underworld</u></a>	Halpern, Jake	****	<a href="#"><u>10/29/14</u></a>	<p><b>Spreadsheets.</b> Jake Halpern takes readers inside the fascinating world of bad debt collection in his book titled, <a href="#"><u>Bad Paper: Chasing Debt from Wall Street to the Underworld</u></a>. Naïve readers like me will be shocked by the people and practices that Halpern describes. Through the personal stories he uses to illustrate what's happening, Halpern brings to life something that might have been a boring story about a small corner of the world of finance.</p> <p><b>Character.</b> What started as a Twitter phenomenon turned into a book as Justin Halpern shares the range of what comes out of the mouth of his father. In <a href="#"><u>Sh*t My Dad Says</u></a>, Halpern captures the humor and wisdom of a most interesting character. Blunt and outspoken, often vulgar, this is a father outside the Robert Young mold. Readers who are open to dysfunctional humor are likely to enjoy this quick read.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Sh*t My Dad Says</u></a>	Halpern, Justin	***	<a href="#"><u>8/16/10</u></a>		
Einstein's Dice and Schrödinger's Cat: How Two Great Minds Battled Quantum Randomness to	Halpern, Paul	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

Create a Unified Theory of Physics					
Can't Remember What I Forgot: The Good News from the Front Lines of Memory Research	Halpern, Sue	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<a href="#">Losing My Faculties: A Teacher's Story</a>	Halpin, Brian	***	<a href="#">Nov 03</a>	Instructive. You don't need to be a teacher to enjoy and learn from this reflection on what makes us happy or sad at work. Bosses, co-workers and situations resonate for anyone who has ever worked.	
<a href="#">Leading the Revolution</a>	Hamel, Gary	***	<a href="#">10/00</a>	Reading this book is annoying, disturbing and uncomfortable, which are three great reasons to pick it up.	
The Future of Management	Hamel. Gary	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2008	
Discontent and its Civilizations: Dispatches from Lahore, New York, and London	Hamid, Mohsin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	



[Exit West](#)

Hamid, Mohsin

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[4/19/17](#)

**Separation.** Almost every human longs for a better world, and wants to live a settled life in a community where we can love and be loved. Protagonists Nadia and Saeed are those people, just like us, in Mohsin Hamid's novel titled, [Exit West](#). They fell in love in a distant city, and when violence reaches their doorstep, they flee, and are separated from their community and loved ones. To ease their passage and to manage the separation, Hamid uses the device of magic doors. Would that these doors exist, given the plight of people like Nadia and Saeed in many parts of the world today. Hamid takes the headlines, and brings them close to everyone's home in this finely written novel. He captured our situation, in my view, in this excerpt: p. 158 "The news in those days was full of war and migrants and nativists, and it was full of fracturing too, of regions pulling away from nations, and cities pulling away from hinterlands, and it seemed that as everyone was coming together everyone was also moving apart." All this separation needs to be healed. We need to mend all these fractures. Hamid does some mending with his finely written prose in this novel.



[How to Get  
Filthy Rich in  
Rising Asia: A  
Novel](#)

Hamid, Mohsin

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[5/21/13](#)

**Pursuit.** Mohsin Hamid riffs on the structure of a self-help book in his short novel, [How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia](#). Hamid packs a wallop in this clever and quirky novel. He presents the rags to riches story of someone who pursues success. Along the way, his unhappiness grows. Hamid explores ambition, dreams, the search for meaning and for love in life, as well as financial rewards. Read a sample before jumping in. Those readers who like an excerpt are likely to enjoy the whole book.



<a href="#"><u>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</u></a>	Hamid, Mohsin	****	<a href="#"><u>July 07</u></a>	<b>Janissary.</b> Finely written novel presented as a monologue from a young Pakistani, educated at Princeton, and working in New York at 9/11, caught between two worlds, but loyal to only one, like the janissaries.	
<a href="#"><u>Downtown: My Manhattan</u></a>	Hamill, Pete	***	<a href="#"><u>Aug 05</u></a>	<b>Heartfelt.</b> Finely written memoir of Hamill and the city he loves, Manhattan, especially the streets of downtown. Learn of the building, the demolishing and the rebuilding of the city and society.	
<a href="#"><u>North River</u></a>	Hamill, Pete	****	<a href="#"><u>Nov 07</u></a>	<b>Home.</b> Finely written historical novel, set in New York during the Depression, in which a doctor faces his demons, finds love and makes a home for others during challenging times.	
Tabloid City	Hamill, Pete	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
<a href="#"><u>Laura Rider's Masterpiece</u></a>	Hamilton, Jane	***	<a href="#"><u>5/23/09</u></a>	<b>Opera.</b> Jane Hamilton's new novel, <a href="#"><u>Laura Rider's Masterpiece</u></a> , could be considered as a new genre: comic opera in novel form. Laura decides to disengage from sex with her husband, Charlie, after a dozen years of marriage. Charlie's only skill is lovemaking, and Laura's had enough for a lifetime. While they work together in their garden and landscaping business in Hartley, Wisconsin, Laura's dream is to write a book. After Charlie begins flirting with Jenna, a radio talk show host, Laura decides to encourage the relationship and use it as material for her to write her masterpiece: a romance novel. Hamilton creates a funny book	



				through this trio's exploits, and the plot made me think of a comic opera, with ample pratfalls to provide broad entertainment. Sit back, relax, enjoy and laugh as you read <a href="#">Laura Rider's Masterpiece.</a>	
<a href="#">The Excellent Lombards</a>	Hamilton, Jane	****	<a href="#">8/4/16</a>	<b>Orchard.</b> As I read Jane Hamilton's novel, <a href="#">The Excellent Lombards</a> , I felt like I was getting an inside view of two mysterious places: a Wisconsin farm and the mind of a young girl. Hamilton presents an enthusiastic protagonist, Mary Frances "Frankie" Lombard who loves the family orchard, and her extended family. Just as the apples go from blossom to fruit to harvest, Frankie goes from little girl to adolescent to adult. Calling this a coming-of-age novel may not communicate the quality and depth of the finely written prose. Hamilton brings readers to Wisconsin and welcomes us as members of this family, and that happens before we know it, thanks to her great writing skill.	
<a href="#">When Madeline Was Young</a>	Hamilton, Jane	***	<a href="#">Nov 06</a>	<b>Duty.</b> Complicated relationships unraveled through superb writing on the themes of duty and caring, set in the suburban 1960s and today.	
<a href="#">How Congress Works and Why You Should Care</a>	Hamilton, Lee H.	***	<a href="#">May 04</a>	<b>Representative.</b> Plain-spoken former Indiana congressman and vice chair of the 9/11 commission tells the simple and complex story of how things get done in Congress and why we should all pay attention to the work of Congress.	
A Stolen Season	Hamilton, Steve	***		Read, but not reviewed.	

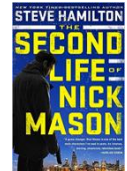
The Second Life of Nick Mason

Hamilton, Steve

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7/8/16

**Compromised.** Just when I thought I had read every possible plot for a crime novel, along comes Steve Hamilton and his novel titled, The Second Life of Nick Mason, first in a series. An imprisoned crime boss, Darius Cole, selects inmate Nick Mason for special treatment. Cole offers Mason a deal: get out of prison twenty years early, and do what I want you to do on the streets of Chicago. Mason agrees and once compromised finds himself doing things that he wants to stop. The fast pace of the novel seems best suited for the screen rather than the page, especially as Mason wrecks multiple restored classic cars while carrying out Cole's commands. Fans of crime novels are those most likely to enjoy reading this one and may join me in looking forward to the next installment.



The Secret Race: Inside the Hidden World of the Tour de France: Doping, Cover-ups, and Winning at All Costs

Hamilton, Tyler and Daniel Coyle

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10/5/12

**Lanced.** Readers interested in the world of professional cycling are those most likely to read Tyler Hamilton and Daniel Coyle's book, The Secret Race: Inside the Hidden World of the Tour de France: Doping, Cover-ups, and Winning at All Costs. I had the sensation while reading this book that Hamilton needed to purge the poison out of his system, like lancing a boil to bring relief from pain. The Lance at the center of much of this book is Lance Armstrong, a teammate and competitor of Tyler Hamilton. In no uncertain terms, Hamilton describes the long time practice of Armstrong, Hamilton and others in using any means possible, legal or illegal, to win bike races. This is a sad personal story about a sport that has been tarnished by scandal. I finished the book feeling like now Hamilton can get on with his life.



**Nablus.** Fiction can help readers understand life in a time and place especially through an intense focus on one character's life. In her debut novel titled, The Parisian, Isabella Hammad tells us about life in Nablus, Palestine in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Protagonist Midhat Kamal is the son of a wealthy merchant and attains the moniker in the title after his father sent him to study medicine in Paris in 1914. Midhat finds a different Nablus after he returns from Paris: British occupation and activists pressing for nationalism. Midhat's life doesn't turn out as he or others expected. Neither has Palestine. Here's one of my favorite lines from late in the novel: p. 547: "When I look at my life," he said, "I see a whole list of mistakes. Lovely, beautiful mistakes. I wouldn't change them."



The Parisian

Hammad,  
Isabella

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5/9/19

The Lake

Hammer, Lotte  
and Soren

\*\*\*\*

2/9/18

**Immorality.** Lotte and Soren Hammer have reprised Copenhagen homicide detective Konrad Simonsen for a dark novel titled, The Lake. The subject of the novel involves human trafficking, and the authors explore a culture and society in which immorality can thrive when certain behaviors are not illegal. Readers who enjoy noir Scandinavian crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel and this series.

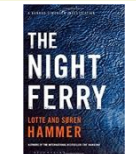


The Night Ferry

Hammer, Lotte  
and Soren

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



The Vanished

Hammer, Lotte  
and Soren

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3/23/17

**Twists.** I find winter to be an ideal time to be entertained by Scandinavian crime fiction. I picked up a novel titled, The Vanished, by Lotte and Soren Hammer, and was delighted by the plot twists and depth of character development. Detective Chief Superintendent Konrad Simonsen gets a new case when he returns to work following recovery from a



				heart attack. The pace of the novel may be more plodding than crime readers are accustomed to, but that rhythm gives readers ample time to get to know the protagonist and see his complexity. The mystery is interesting and involves enough twists to satisfy most crime fiction readers.	
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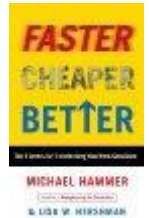
Faster Cheaper Better: The 9 Levers for Transforming How Work Gets Done

Hammer, Michael and Lisa Hershman

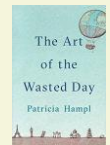
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3/12/11

**Process.** When Mike Hammer died in 2008, he had completed the first draft of a new book. Lisa Hershman, CEO of Hammer and Company, has completed the book titled, Faster Cheaper Better: The 9 Levers for Transforming How Work Gets Done. This is required reading for any manager involved in process redesign. This work sounds simple but can be extremely challenging to implement. The clear examples and positive and negative case studies are useful, as are the dos and don'ts at the end of each chapter. Managers who hate process can find this book a way to understand what this topic is all about.



<u>The Art of the Wasted Day</u>	Hampl, Patricia	*****	<u>6/24/19</u>	<b>Leisure.</b> How unscheduled is your life? How much do you go with the flow? Do you daydream much? Is leisure for you a set of structured recreational activities or is it a period of being totally carefree? In her book titled, <u>The Art of the Wasted Day</u> , Patricia Hampl explores leisure and takes readers into episodes from her life, as well as stories from the lives of Michel Montaigne, Gregor Mendel and others. We can discover a lot about ourselves and others when we get off the beaten path mentally and physically and lose ourselves in thought and in the places we go.	
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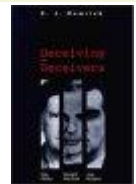


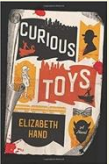

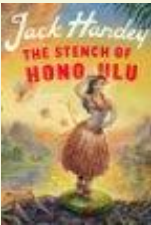

Deceiving the Deceivers: Kim Philby, Donald Maclean and Guy Burgess

Hamrick, S.J.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



<a href="#">Curious Toys</a>	Hand, Elizabeth	*****	<a href="#">4/16/20</a>	<p><b>Pin.</b> You don't need to be familiar with the Chicago amusement park, Riverview, to enjoy Elizabeth Hand's novel titled, <a href="#">Curious Toys</a>. Set in the Summer of 1915, protagonist Pin is the fourteen-year-old daughter of a fortune teller, and she has the run of the park, often dressed like a boy. An environment of fun and some mischief turns dark after a girl is murdered. All the characters are finely drawn, and even Charlie Chaplin makes an appearance. The settings are described vividly, the characters are complex and compelling, and the plot is thrilling. Pin is an absolute delight. Fans of historical fiction, especially of this time period, are those most likely to enjoy this finely written novel.</p>	
Mortal Love	Hand, Elizabeth	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2004		
<a href="#">The Stench of Honolulu: A Tropical Adventure</a>	Handey, Jack	****	<a href="#">1/6/14</a>	<p><b>Language.</b> What I liked most about Jack Handey's <a href="#">The Stench of Honolulu: A Tropical Adventure</a>, is the way in which he twists a sentence in one direction at the beginning, then veers in a very different direction to end the sentence. Sometimes I felt as if he were filling in the blanks of Mad-Libs. Handey's humor appeals most to those of us who enjoy the playful use of language. Handey may be an acquired taste, but for any reader who liked his <i>Deep Thoughts</i> segment from SNL, this book will provide a lot of reading pleasure. If you've not been a fan, read a sample before you jump in.</p>	
<a href="#">Bottle Grove</a>	Handler, Daniel	***	<a href="#">9/13/19</a>	<p><b>Monsters.</b> There be monsters in Daniel Handler's novel titled, <a href="#">Bottle Grove</a>. The beasts are often human, despite the presence of foxes, including a human one named Reynard. Handler uses the tech environment of San Francisco as the backdrop for this comic dark view of contemporary life and</p>	

marriage. There's love and greed, and a lot of clunky prose on these pages. Every reader open to reflecting about the forces inside and outside us that bring us together or tear us apart will find something to appreciate from this novel.

**Pursuit.** I picked up Daniel Handler's adult novel titled, We Are Pirates, since I knew him as the author of the children's *Lemony Snicket* books. Handler explores the ways in which adolescents and adults pursue happiness. Set in and around San Francisco Bay, the two main characters are fourteen-year-old Gwen and her father, Phil. I found the sections of the novel in which Gwen dominates are energetic and exciting, while the parts featuring Phil are morose and dull. While both Gwen and Phil are pursuing what they think will make them happy, their differences are striking, and the plot never quite pulled them together in a way that satisfied me.



We Are Pirates

Handler, Daniel

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8/25/15

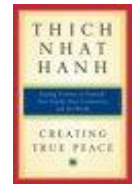
Creating True Peace: Ending Violence in Yourself, Your Family, Your Community, and the World

Hanh, Thich  
Nhat

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Oct 03

**Teacher.** The practice of peace always begins right here, right now. Busy executives may enjoy the excerpt about taking time to live, and using a tea meditation to nourish mutual understanding and happiness.



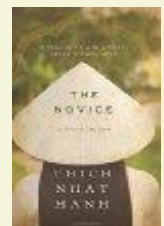
The Novice: A Story of True Love

Hanh, Thich  
Nhat

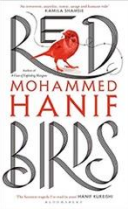
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10/27/11


**Response.** Renowned Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh has rewritten an old Vietnamese story in a new book titled, The Novice: A Story of True Love. As with most Buddhist teaching, this story helps readers understand the response of love to situations of injustice and suffering. For readers who want to take a break from daily concerns and read a short book that can lead to reflection about our responses to what life throws us, this book is a great choice.






<a href="#"><u>Red Birds</u></a>	Hanif, Mohammed	****	<a href="#"><u>6/18/19</u></a>	<p><b>Weary.</b> The darkly comic war satire titled, <a href="#"><u>Red Birds</u></a>, by Mohammed Hanif uses multiple narrators to move the story along quickly. Readers weary of our seeming never-ending wars may become even wearier after reading this novel. Major Ellie is an American bomber pilot who bailed out of his plane, parachuted to the desert where he is wandering and lost for eight days. His narration speaks to the foibles of American military intervention. Ellie is found by another narrator, the dog named Mutt, whose observations are the most cogent and philosophical in the novel. It is Mutt who gives us the title, as he observes the last blood drops of those killed in war turning into birds as they die. A teenage boy named Momo narrates the many personas he tries on from his refugee camp as he strives to become an entrepreneur, especially where he sees the most to gain: from warfare and refugee aid. Hanif's prose is skewering, and those readers who can appreciate finely written satire are the readers most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
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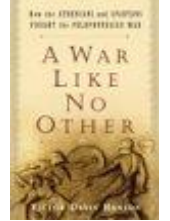
<a href="#"><u>Uncommon Type</u></a>	Hanks, Tom	****	<a href="#"><u>2/9/18</u></a>	<p><b>Typewriters.</b> I enjoyed reading most of the seventeen short stories in a collection titled, <a href="#"><u>Uncommon Type</u></a>, by Tom Hanks. Many of the stories included detailed descriptions of manual typewriters, an object the author enjoys and appreciates. The writing is as down-to-earth as Hanks appears to be, and the stories are both entertaining and interesting. I sensed the joy and pleasure that must have surrounded Hanks as he wrote these stories to share that pleasure with others.</p>	
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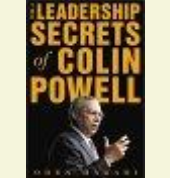
<a href="#"><u>The Bird Man and the Lap Dancer: Close Encounters with Strangers</u></a>	Hansen, Eric K.	***	<a href="#"><u>June 05</u></a>	<p><b>Community.</b> Nine engaging and memorable essays spanning thirty years about the unusual people Hansen has met in remarkable places around the world.</p>	
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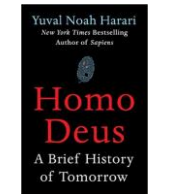
<a href="#"><u>A Wild Surge of Guilty Passion</u></a>	Hansen, Ron	****	<a href="#"><u>7/9/11</u></a>	<p><b>Sensational.</b> Readers who appreciate fine writing will find all the elements present in Ron Hansen's latest novel, <a href="#"><u>A Wild Surge of Guilty Passion</u></a>. The characters and plot are drawn from a real crime from New York in the 1920's. Ruth Synder's unhappy marriage to Alfred sets the stage for her affair with Judd Gray, a traveling corset salesman, and Alfred's murder. Hansen soars in bringing to life the depth of each key character and the sensuality and sensational aspects of their lives. Readers may not empathize with these characters, but they become believable and their passion is real. Crime and punishment are presented with a precision in writing that many readers will find enjoyable.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Exiles</u></a>	Hansen, Ron	****	<a href="#"><u>Aug 08</u></a>	<p><b>Hop.</b> Finely crafted novel of the return of Jesuit priest Gerard Manley Hopkins to poetry following his reading of the fate of other exiles, six German nuns, in a shipwreck that inspired Hopkins' epic poem, <i>The Wreck of the Deutschland</i>.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Isn't It Romantic</u></a>	Hansen, Ron	***	<a href="#"><u>Apr 03</u></a>	<p><b>Franco-American Treats.</b> French tourists find Nebraska, love, fine wine from the magic waters of Frenchman's Creek. Given Hansen's versatile writing skills, readers will laugh at loud.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>She Loves Me Not: New and Selected Stories</u></a>	Hansen, Ron	****	<a href="#"><u>11/26/12</u></a>	<p><b>Variety.</b> The nineteen stories in Ron Hansen's new collection, <a href="#"><u>She Loves Me Not</u></a>, provide readers who love short fiction with a tasty smorgasbord. Through efficiency and precision, Hansen drew me into the lives and settings of people whose behavior displays a wide range of human nature. I found myself reading two stories in the morning and two in the evening as a way to pace myself and reflect on each one individually. Readers who savor fine writing and enjoy diverse characters and geography are those most likely to enjoy this collection.</p>	



<a href="#">The Kid</a>	Hansen, Ron	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
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A War Like No Other	Hanson, Victor	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
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<a href="#">The Leadership Secrets of Colin Powell</a>	Harari, Oren	**	<a href="#">May 02</a>	Few secrets and not much new about leadership. Motivating and inspirational, but not necessarily useful.	
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<a href="#">Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow</a>	Harari, Yuval	****	<a href="#">4/19/17</a>	<p><b>Possibilities.</b> After I read the book jacket of Yuval Harari's book titled, <a href="#">Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow</a>, I set it aside and read his earlier book, <i>Sapiens</i>. Before I took a journey with him to explore our possible future, I figured I should have some perspective on how he views our past. With that foundation, which I recommend to any general reader, I started to read the new book and began to think about all the possible future paths that our species might pursue. The pace of change seems to be accelerating, and our capabilities to set a path toward certain different future states seem to be expanding. Any general reader may be shocked by some of Harari's perspectives, and will likely be encouraged to think more deeply as a result of reading this book.</p>	
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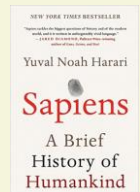
[Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind](#)

Harari, Yuval

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[4/19/17](#)

**Synthesis.** I was only a few dozen pages into reading Yuval Harari's book titled, [Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind](#), when my mind drifted back four decades to think about two of my university professors. Harari is a historian and he examines human evolution in this book from the perspective of both history and biology. His synthesis in this book organizes his view of homo sapiens and he presents that view with vivid prose that should engage all general readers. I had a makeup midterm exam in freshman biology with Dr. Unzicker. She asked me to tell her a story, using this as her prompt: "There was oxygen, carbon, nitrogen and hydrogen. Tell me what happened." What followed was an engaging conversation between us about evolution, the topic of the mid-term. Dr. Spaulding began his two semester survey course, *The History of Western Civilization*, with remarks along these lines: "Pay close attention because every word I say is pregnant with meaning. During each class we may cover hundreds or even thousands of years of history. I update my notes for this class every day when I read the work of scholars. This course will introduce you to the study of history. It's up to you to keep current on understanding what we humans learn about our past." Thanks to reading Harari, I am doing just that, and I expect Dr. Spaulding would be pleased.



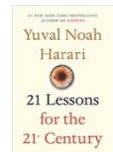
[21 Lessons for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#)

Harari, Yuval  
Noah

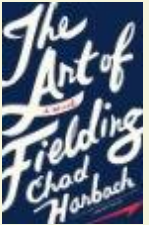
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[10/17/18](#)

**Observations.** Yuval Noah Harari synthesizes lots of current thinking by himself and others in a reflective book titled, [21 Lessons for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#). Harari's observations about nationalism, religion, robotics, artificial intelligence, the future workforce and lots more are clear and reasoned. From these observations, he formulates lessons that we should be learning from these and similar observations. Chances are that whatever you are



currently worried about, Harari has an observation about that, and a helpful way of thinking about your fears. Educators should think about the ways in which he thinks our education systems need to be reworked to prepare individuals for their future. Agree or disagree with his views but accept his observations and reflect on what you think they mean.

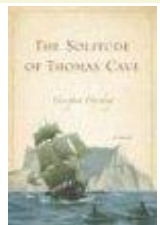
<a href="#"><u>The Art of Fielding</u></a>	Harbach, Chad	****	<a href="#"><u>3/2/12</u></a>	<p><b>Sacrifice.</b> Chad Harbach's sprawling and ambitious debut novel, <a href="#"><u>The Art of Fielding</u></a>, demands a lot of patience from readers. The characters are developed very slowly, almost at the pace of most baseball games. The setting is a Midwestern college where the protagonist, Henry Skrimshander, has been recruited to the school because of his talent as a baseball player. His ambition and that of other characters, along with the sacrifices made by many, provide the backdrop for relationships and a multi-year odd adventure with mighty highs and deep lows. Harbach tested my willing suspension for disbelief at many times, but by the time I finished the 500+ pages, I realized that I had really enjoyed a fine story. Patient readers who are willing to give a chance to first time authors are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
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The Solitude of Thomas Cave

Harding, Georgina

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



[The Rabbit Effect: Live Longer, Happier, and Healthier with the](#)

Harding, Kelli

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[7/23/20](#)

**Kindness.** I find it hard to not apply a covid-19 lens to what I read during the pandemic. So, when I read Kelli Harding's book titled, [The Rabbit Effect: Live Longer, Happier, and Healthier with the Groundbreaking Science of Kindness](#), I couldn't help but think how a little bit of kindness to others



Groundbreaking  
Science of  
Kindness

would go a long way these days. After all, we're just being asked to wash our hands, practice social distancing, and wear a mask when indoors with others or at times when we can't keep a safe distance away. These are times when many of us will benefit from thinking about our health in new ways. This book helps us understand the interaction of body and mind, and the ways in which we may be missing pieces of what's critical to our health. Harding learned this through a rabbit study, and readers of this book can learn some missing pieces that can make our lives happier and healthier. Also, wash your hands, maintain physical distance from others, and wear the damn mask. How hard is it to be nice?

**Raw.** Don't even think about reading Paul Harding's excellent novel, Enon, if you are grieving the death of someone close to you. Protagonist Charlie Crosby is overwhelmed by the sudden accidental death of his daughter, Kate. Harding draws readers into Charlie's first year of loss during which his life spins out of control. The raw emotions and despair overpower Charlie and will touch deeply any empathetic reader. Harding's earlier novel, *Tinkers*, won the Pulitzer, and the protagonist of that novel is Charlie's grandfather, George. Harding writes with great skill and injects every sentence with energy and careful selection of language. Any reader who appreciates fine prose and the exploration of the depths and richness of human behavior will find much to enjoy in this novel.

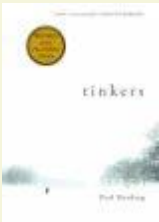
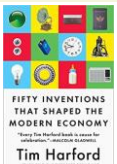
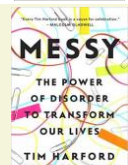


Enon

Harding, Paul

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9/24/13



<a href="#"><u>Tinkers</u></a>	Harding, Paul	****	<a href="#"><u>7/10/10</u></a>	<b>Craft.</b> I paid no attention to Paul Harding's debut novel, <a href="#"><u>Tinkers</u></a> , until it won the Pulitzer prize, when it roused my curiosity. Harding's talent soars in his choice of language and in his creation of a tone and setting that never misses a beat. As George Crosby lies dying, his memories provide the novel's momentum, and the lives and relationships of every character come to live thanks to Harding's fine craftsmanship. Any reader who enjoys the art of fine writing will especially appreciate this novel.	
<a href="#"><u>Fifty Inventions That Shaped the Modern Economy</u></a>	Harford, Tim	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<a href="#"><u>Messy: The Power of Disorder to Transform Our Lives</u></a>	Harford, Tim	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<a href="#"><u>The Undercover Economist</u></a>	Harford, Tim	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<a href="#"><u>Lost Connections: Uncovering the Real Causes of Depression – and the Unexpected Solutions</u></a>	Hari, Johann	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	

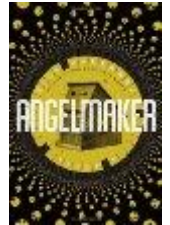
[Angelmaker](#)

Harkaway, Nick

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[3/25/13](#)

**Surreal.** Readers with patience for the surreal and a taste for absurdist fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading the 500 pages of Nick Harkaway's novel, [Angelmaker](#). I found great pleasure in Harkaway's fine use of language in this novel, and I found myself amused often by his choice of just the perfect word or phrase. There's a great cast of machines and villains, heroes and genuine eccentrics. I found myself surrendering to Harkaway, and letting him lead me along wherever he chose to go. By the end, I was satisfied with my journey into Harkaway's creation. Read a sample before plunging in. Chances are if you like a selection, you'll enjoy the whole piece, and vice versa.



Tigerman

Harkaway, Nick

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



[The Lost Man](#)

Harper, Jane

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[6/10/19](#)

**Desolate.** The outback of Queensland Australia can be a desolate place. In her novel titled, [The Lost Man](#), Jane Harper draws readers into the setting with fine descriptive language, then hooks us with her psychological insights into the family dynamics of three brothers raised in that harsh and unforgiving place. The story involves the mysterious death of one of the brothers. Readers who enjoy surprise endings are those most likely to enjoy this one.



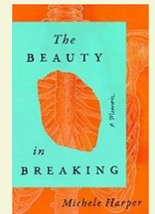
[The Beauty in Breaking](#)

Harper, Michele

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[8/25/20](#)

**Healing.** I can think of no better time than now to read some life lessons from an emergency room physician. In her memoir titled, [The Beauty in Breaking](#), Michele Harper blends patient and personal stories in ways that will engage and encourage most readers. Harper helps us pay attention to those places where each of us is broken in one way or another and offers us a path toward





				healing. We can learn about better ways to live in many ways, and this book will provide comfort to anyone engaged in a struggle and looking for a voice of experience to find a way to find healing.	
<a href="#"><u>A Love of My Own</u></a>	Harris, E. Lynn	*	<a href="#"><u>Oct 02</u></a>	<b>Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places.</b> Poorly written romance with alternating narrators, cardboard characters and odd relationships among unlikable upper class Black Americans.	
Basketball Jones	Harris, E. Lynn	*		Read and not reviewed.	
Gentlemen and Players	Harris, Joanne	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<a href="#"><u>The Truths We Hold: An American Journey</u></a>	Harris, Kamala	****	<a href="#"><u>2/21/19</u></a>	<b>Unity.</b> We're in that time cycle when anyone thinking of or actually running for President of the United States has a book to make a pitch to a small segment of the electorate who read such books. Since I'm one of those readers, and open to hearing a pitch, I read Kamala Harris' book titled, <a href="#"><u>The Truths We Hold: An American Journey</u></a> . Over the course of over three hundred pages, Harris tells her of her childhood as the daughter of immigrants, her lifelong passion for justice, and the many ways in which she has served the public through various roles. Her pitch is that she is the person who can lead us toward unity through a focus on what we share in common. Even if you are cautious when faced with someone telling you what truth is,	

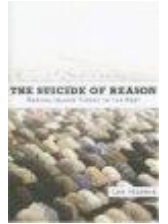
consider reading this novel to get to know one of the candidates running for President in 2020.

The Suicide of Reason: Radical Islam's Threat to the West

Harris, Lee

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



The End of Absence: Reclaiming What We've Lost in a World of Constant Connection

Harris, Michael

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11/24/14

**Unplug.** In a book titled, The End of Absence: Reclaiming What We've Lost in a World of Constant Connection, journalist Michael Harris reflects on his own experience of how his life has changed both while he was digitally connected and then unplugged. He peppers the text with tidbits of what others have to say about technological change, attention, and a spate of other topics. Other than the loss of solitude that we can experience while constantly connected, I'm not sure I gleaned much from Harris' reflections. It hasn't been very long since the Internet and our smart devices gave us the capability to become constantly connected. It will take some more time to understand all the consequences of this development. Harris opens a conversation with readers on this subject through these reflections. One's own experiences may be different. This might be an interesting book to discuss among book club members.



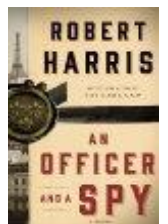
An Officer and a Spy

Harris, Robert

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2/20/14

**Dreyfus.** If, like me, you recall three or four facts about the Dreyfus affair, and if you like to read historical fiction, you'll probably enjoy reading Robert Harris' novel titled, An Officer and A Spy. Protagonist Georges Picquart works in intelligence for the French Army, and he slowly comes to realize that the charges that convicted Alfred Dreyfus of being a spy were false. What happened to this 19<sup>th</sup> century whistle blower provides the tension in the novel. While presenting enough detail to relate a





cogent description of the actions and the cover-up, Harris enlivens all the characters by developing each character quite fully. Readers can understand the expectation of conformity within hierarchical institutions, and the impact of anti-Semitism on the integrity of the investigations. Harris does what most readers of historical fiction desire: he brings the time period to life, and presents a story that informs and entertains us.

**Humans.** I did not expect that a novel about Catholic cardinals gathering to elect a new Pope would be so much fun to read. Thanks to Robert Harris' writing skill, his novel titled, Conclave, entertained me from beginning to end for several reasons. Harris ignores the external images of the conclave process being a somber and deliberative ritual and brings us into the messy human behavior of flawed people, just like us, who are at the conclave and just happen to be cardinals. Harris shows the political jockeying for votes, the regional and doctrinal factions, and some personal issues from the past of these very fallible cardinals who are striving to become Pope. As the balloting went on over many days, I couldn't put the novel aside because I was so interested in seeing how Harris would wrap things up, especially in what would happen with the surprise cardinal who arrived at the conclave unknown and unexpected. I was delighted by the ending, and entertained throughout.

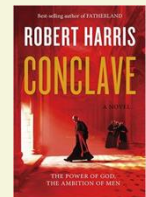
**Alliances.** The second novel of Robert Harris' life of Cicero is titled, Conspirata, and I found I liked it even better than the first book, *Imperium*. Politics does make strange bedfellows, and Cicero finds himself isolated by changing alliances among his opponents. The financial and personal consequences are severe, and the orator can't talk

Conclave

Harris, Robert

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12/15/16

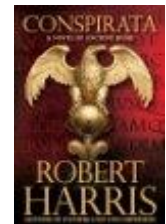


Conspirata

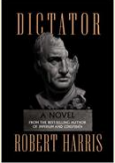
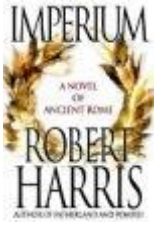
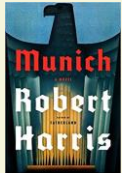
Harris, Robert

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4/8/10



his way out of this jam. The mob and the army have senators who use them effectively, also to Cicero's detriment. The Rome that Cicero saved seems to be a wholly different place. Readers who love historical fiction will savor the way in which Harris makes this tumultuous period of Roman history come alive, and how the character of Cicero becomes more complete and complex.

<a href="#"><u>Dictator</u></a>	Harris, Robert	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<a href="#"><u>Imperium</u></a>	Harris, Robert	***	<a href="#"><u>Dec 06</u></a>	<b>Politics.</b> Lively political novel of Cicero's rise to consul, narrated by longtime secretary Tiro. Readers will enjoy Cicero's political machinations.	
<a href="#"><u>Munich</u></a>	Harris, Robert	****	<a href="#"><u>2/22/18</u></a>	<b>Delay.</b> Chances are, if your education is anything like mine, all you really think of when the name Neville Chamberlain comes to mind is "appeasement," something our leaders should avoid. In his novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Munich</u></a> , Robert Harris covers just a few days in 1938, the days before and after Chamberlain's meeting with Hitler in Munich over Germany's takeover of the Sudetenland, a German speaking area of what was Czechoslovakia. As in earlier novels, Harris describes settings with great detail, offers an interesting and engaging plot, and leads readers to a view of Chamberlain that is kinder now than in recent decades. In the novel, the delay that Chamberlain achieved in Munich was in response to the lack of preparedness in England to engage in war with Germany. As in our lives, when our choices are less than satisfying, we will select the least bad alternative, and Harris presents	

				Chamberlain as doing just that in 1938. He delayed confrontation with Hitler until the country was ready, and that prudent act was in no way appeasement.	
<a href="#">Pompeii</a>	Harris, Robert	***	<a href="#">Jan 04</a>	<b>Salve Lucrum.</b> Hail Profit may have been the motto of Pompeii in 79, but readers know what happened next. Harris' fine research and writing brings the era alive through characters and memorable, exciting plot momentum.	
<a href="#">The Fear Index</a>	Harris, Robert	****	<a href="#">2/17/12</a>	<b>Alive.</b> I was highly entertained by Robert Harris' latest novel, <a href="#">The Fear Index</a> . A quirky quant, Dr. Alex Hoffmann, has developed computer programs to create a machine that learns and produces huge returns for a hedge fund because of its ability to anticipate market movements. The power of the machine to learn has consequences for the inventor and others, and the thrilling plot kept me entertained throughout. Somewhat ripped from the financial pages about high volume nanosecond trades in and out of securities leading to market disruptions, this novel carries the power of the machine to a logical outcome. Readers who like thrillers are those most likely to enjoy this novel.	
<a href="#">The Ghost</a>	Harris, Robert	***	<a href="#">Feb 08</a>	<b>Recruited.</b> A ghostwriter is recruited to complete on a short deadline the memoirs of a recently retired British prime minister. The plot moves quickly and the characters are both interesting and complex.	
<a href="#">The Second Sleep</a>	Harris, Robert	*****	<a href="#">1/10/20</a>	<b>Awake.</b> Things are not as they appear in Robert Harris' novel titled, <a href="#">The Second Sleep</a> . We're told the year is 1468. Protagonist Christopher Fairfax is a young priest who has been sent by the bishop to a small village in Wessex, England, to conduct the funeral of Father Lacy, who spent many years as the village priest. This would be his first funeral as a	

				priest, so Fairfax wanted to get it right. Thanks to Harris' great plotting, we learn along with Fairfax about Father Lacy and as a result our eyes are opened to the real story in this novel. Harris knows how to tell a gripping story, and in this novel, he focuses us on the past, present and future.	
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The End of Faith

Harris, Sam

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



<a href="#">Cari Mora</a>	Harris, Thomas	*****	<a href="#">3/6/20</a>	<p><b>Miami.</b> I was amused by Thomas Harris' crime thriller titled, <a href="#">Cari Mora</a>. Set in Miami, the protagonist, Cari Mora, is a housekeeper at a drug kingpin's house. Stored and booby trapped beneath the house is a stash of gold. A colorful cast of characters wants to heist the gold and Cari Mora. Harris gives us a terrific villain, a strong female protagonist, and keeps momentum by playing the desires of the characters that include greed and avarice. I read this book quickly and became inured to the violence quickly. Fans of crime fiction looking for a quick, amusing, violent book are those most likely to enjoy this one.</p>	
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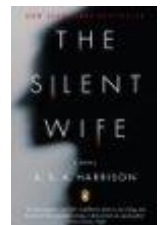
[The Silent Wife](#)

Harrison, A.S.A.

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[11/19/13](#)

**Cheating.** The time I spent reading A.S.A. Harrison's debut novel, [The Silent Wife](#), sped by as I enjoyed the way the personalities of the main characters were dissected. Any reader who enjoys psychological fiction will likely enjoy this one. Todd and Jodi are an affluent married couple. Todd is a property developer who cheats on his wife. Jodi is a part-time psychologist who chooses to avoid and deny Todd's infidelity. Their lives appear to be in a state of balance or even satisfaction. Harrison then increases the tension, and readers are in for a fast-paced plot full of twists and insights.



The Finder	Harrison, Colin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
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[A Really Big Lunch: The Roving Gourmand on Food and Life](#)

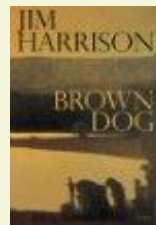
Harrison, Jim

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[4/3/18](#)

**Appetite.** A posthumous collection of essays by Jim Harrison is titled, [A Really Big Lunch: The Roving Gourmand on Food and Life](#). All of these pieces have been published before, and whether I read some before or not, I found I enjoyed this smorgasbord of fine writing about eating and drinking and living a life of culinary abundance. The title refers a thirty-seven course meal that Harrison enjoyed in France and about which he wrote eloquently in the *New Yorker*. Harrison's enthusiastic delight in sensual pleasure fills every page of this collection. Lent was the wrong season of the year for me to read this collection. After every essay I realized that I am not eating and drinking nearly enough. Harrison's wit enlivens every essay and the best tribute would be to read essay and toast the author with a glass or bottle or three of fine wine and great food.

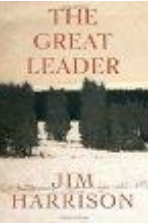
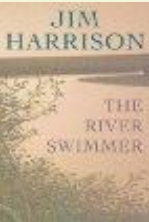
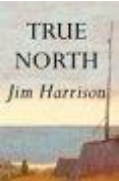


<a href="#"><u>Brown Dog</u></a>	Harrison, Jim	*****	<a href="#"><u>4/24/14</u></a>	<b>Feast.</b> If you are familiar with the character Brown Dog from Jim Harrison's many novellas to feature him, treat yourself to all those stories and a new one assembled in one collection titled appropriately, <a href="#"><u>Brown Dog</u></a> . If you're new to B.D. or to Harrison, you're in for a special treat if you read this book. Brown Dog tries to lead a simple life on Michigan's Upper Peninsula until it inevitably gets complicated. He does odd jobs, fishes and hunts (sometimes in season), and never says no to an opportunity for sex or alcohol. Thanks to Harrison's fine writing, this Everyman is a complex and interesting character through whom readers can see	
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				a wide range of human behavior. I felt stuffed and satisfied after feasting on this collection, even after reading some of the stories that I've read more than once before.	
<a href="#">Returning to Earth</a>	Harrison, Jim	***	<a href="#">Apr 07</a>	<b>Farewell.</b> Four narrators in the same family combine to present in poetic prose the struggle to live a life at one with nature, and to die with dignity when that life comes to a natural end.	
Songs of Unreason	Harrison, Jim	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<a href="#">The Ancient Minstrel</a>	Harrison, Jim	****	<a href="#">3/24/16</a>	<b>Appetite.</b> Fans of novellas can find three finely written examples in the latest collection by Jim Harrison titled, <a href="#">The Ancient Minstrel</a> . Readers familiar with Harrison's work will be pleased that he continues to excel at exploring the range of our human appetite, especially for food and sex. In these novellas he explores our relationship with nature and with each other. My appetite was sated after reading each novella written by this excellent author.	
<a href="#">The Big Seven</a>	Harrison, Jim	****	<a href="#">4/24/15</a>	<b>Violence.</b> Jim Harrison riffs on violence in his novel titled, <a href="#">The Big Seven</a> . Harrison reprises retired police detective Sunderson and alternates between the rampant violence in the family of Sunderson's Upper Peninsula neighbors and the violent actions of Sunderson. Harrison's prose is so finely constructed that what might seem offhand has been carefully created and made to seem effortless. While Harrison contrasts Sunderson with the violent Ames family, he carefully leads readers	



				to seeing all the similarities as important and all the differences as irrelevant. If reading about the deadly sins is your cup of tea, there's plenty to steep and enjoy in this novel.	
<a href="#"><u>The English Major</u></a>	Harrison, Jim	***	<a href="#"><u>12/27/08</u></a>	<p><b>Forward.</b> The 60-year-old protagonist of Jim Harrison's latest novel, <a href="#"><u>The English Major</u></a>, decides that a road trip might be the best way to move forward after his wife of 38 years divorces him, and he loses the family farm in a scheme that she managed. I laughed often at Cliff's adventures and peculiarities. The title refers to Cliff who was both an English major and a high school teacher before he landed on the family farm he inherited. As Cliff drives west, he decides to rename every state bird, and he tosses a puzzle piece from the car every time he crosses a state line. His adventures become amplified when Marybelle, a former student, and 17 years his junior, joins his trip and both releases and increases sexual tension. She and Cliff become especially energized when they arrive in San Francisco and Cliff's affluent gay son, Robert, provides them with a well-needed respite. Throughout the road trip, waitresses play a big part in Cliff's adventures, especially one who recognizes his identity as an English major. <a href="#"><u>The English Major</u></a> is quirky, funny and entertaining.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Farmer's Daughter</u></a>	Harrison, Jim	***	<a href="#"><u>1/9/10</u></a>	<p><b>Desires.</b> Jim Harrison's new book <a href="#"><u>The Farmer's Daughter</u></a> contains three novellas, each of which contains a reference to Patsy Cline's "The Last Word in Lonesome Is Me." The novella form is a perfect vehicle for Harrison's spare writing style. He covers a lot of ground with few words. In each novella, characters are developed clearly and a tight plot brings readers into lives that are both dark and lively. The strong desires of key characters are exploited by Harrison with humor and poignancy. I read each novella in a single setting, and marveled</p>	

				at the way in which <a href="#">The Farmer's Daughter</a> presents our human condition with great insight and skill.	
<a href="#">The Great Leader</a>	Harrison, Jim	***	<a href="#">11/18/11</a>	<p><b>Character.</b> Readers who like novels that develop deeply rich and complex characters are those most likely to enjoy Jim Harrison's novel, <a href="#">The Great Leader</a>. Protagonist Simon Sunderson has recently retired as a detective in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and he can't let go of his last case, which involved a cult leader named Dwight, called the Great Leader by his followers, often teenage girls. Each character and the physical environment are presented and developed by Harrison with lyrical writing and understanding of human behavior. The engagement and kindness and desires of characters in this novel will keep readers interested from beginning to end.</p>	
<a href="#">The River Swimmer</a>	Harrison, Jim	*****	<a href="#">7/26/13</a>	<p><b>Mortality.</b> I thoroughly enjoyed the two novellas in Jim Harrison's latest book, <a href="#">The River Swimmer</a>. Without a wasted or discordant word, Harrison presents readers with fully developed characters, young and old, who are totally connected to the joys and limitations of our brief lifetimes. The novella can be a difficult form of fiction: sometimes leaving a reader wanting more of a story, and other times not having adequate plot action to flesh out a character in ways that satisfy readers. Harrison nails this genre with great skill. I loved his wit and his wisdom in holding a mirror to our human mortality. Any reader who enjoys great writing will find something to like in these novellas.</p>	
True North	Harrison, Jim	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	

<a href="#"><u>For Time and All Eternities</u></a>	Harrison, Mette Ivie	***	5/3/17	<p><b>Bound.</b> The third Linda Wallheim mystery by Mette Ivie Harrison is titled, <a href="#"><u>For Time and All Eternities</u></a>. This time out Harrison is presenting her thoughts on marriage, religion and gender through the lens of Linda, a Mormon bishop's wife and mother of five living boys and a daughter who did not survive birth. Linda's son, Kenneth, is engaged to be married to a woman named Naomi who grew up in a polygamous family. Linda and her husband, Kurt, visit the family compound to meet the future in-laws. Before long, a murder follows, and Linda is in the thick of things. I think I am tiring of this protagonist, as I found this novel plodded long more heavily than the previous ones. There's a mystery here for those readers who enjoy that genre, along with views about Mormonism that will appeal to readers curious and interested in that religion.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>His Right Hand</u></a>	Harrison, Mette Ivie	****	2/5/16	<p><b>Sexuality.</b> Curiosity and controversy led some readers to Mette Ivie Harrison debut about life in a small Mormon community titled, <i>The Bishop's Wife</i>, in which she explored the subject of domestic abuse. Harrison reprises the protagonist of that novel, Linda Wallheim, for a new Mormon mystery titled, <a href="#"><u>His Right Hand</u></a>, in which she explores aspects of LGBT sexuality within family and community. Fans of murder mysteries are those readers most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Bishop's Wife</u></a>	Harrison, Mette Ivie	****	3/13/15	<p><b>Close.</b> Members of book clubs should consider selecting Mette Ivie Harrison's novel, <a href="#"><u>The Bishop's Wife</u></a>. It's a book that is likely to encourage lively conversation about the characters and the situation. Protagonist Linda Wallheim is happily married to a man serving as a Mormon bishop in a Utah town and is the mother of five sons. When a young wife and mother disappears, Linda becomes involved in trying to figure out what happened. Harrison</p>	

			<p>presents issues of gender and domestic abuse within the context of a small community, especially when there are extremists with clear expectations of acceptable behavior. The pace of the novel is slow, and so much of the narrative seems very ordinary. I enjoyed reading it, mostly because it conveyed a point of view about relationships in a close church community that I found both unfamiliar and interesting.</p>	
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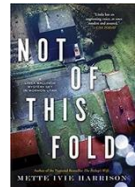
[Not of this Fold](#)

Harrison, Mettie  
Ivie

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[4/19/19](#)

**Immigrants.** The fourth installment in the Linda Wallheim series by Mettie Ivie Harrison is a novel titled, [Not of this Fold](#). Linda finds herself caught up in what's happening in the "Spanish ward" and gets herself and her husband, Kurt, in some hot water with the Mormon power structure. Harrison explores issues of immigration and alienation in this novel and moves along the development of the Wallheim family presented in earlier novels. Fans of the series are those readers most likely to enjoy this installment.



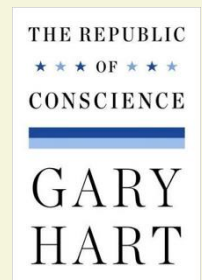
[The Republic of Conscience](#)




Hart, Gary

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[7/24/15](#)

**Torch.** There are so many political books to consider reading that I was reluctant to pick up Gary Hart's [The Republic of Conscience](#). A very long time ago during a different presidential campaign season, I had dismissed the Gary Hart of the *Monkey Business* scandal and paid no attention to him since. I'm glad that I selected this book which provides advice both cogent and wise. Hart offers a perspective on moral authority, and the principles on which the United States was formed. This book is a plea for citizens to pick up the torch of our founders, and return this country to the republic it was formed to become. Some readers may be distracted by occasional partisan swipes, but most readers will find Hart's assessment of our current situation rings true, and his prescription for a return to fundamental principles as a wise



				approach to pursue. If nothing else, time spent reading this book can tune out the current political clown shows and focus on something more important.	
The Living Moment: Modernism in a Broken World	Hart, Jeffrey	Unread		A dozen or so pages into this book transported me back to college more than forty years ago. I decided not to stay there, so I set this book aside. Those interested in modernism will appreciate this book more than I. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<a href="#">The Warehouse</a>	Hart, Rob	*****	<a href="#">1/2/20</a>	<b>Dystopia.</b> I usually prefer novels about a bleak future to be set in a distant future time, not today or the near future. When I started reading Rob Hart's satire titled, <a href="#">The Warehouse</a> , I began to warm to a very dystopian take on contemporary American culture. A company named Cloud has become the dominant business enterprise in the United States. The thriller aspects of this novel dominate the satirical social commentary. Hart lets the story speak for itself, and Cloud does what it is has been built to do. Hart gives us workplace conditions that exploit, corporate behavior that's predatory, and a culture of surveillance that's downright creepy. The characters are finely drawn and complex. My discomfort from reading this novel arises from the sensation that everything Hart describes is plausible. A company that gives people what they want. What could be wrong with that?	
<a href="#">Benediction</a>	Haruf, Kent	****	<a href="#">6/20/13</a>	<b>Examined.</b> Good novelists help readers examine life through characters that we recognize as complicated and human, just like us. In his novel <a href="#">Benediction</a> , Kent Haruf places protagonist Dad Lewis in a state of close examination as he faces death from cancer. Just like us, Dad is a flawed creature, along with every other character in the novel. Each makes decisions and deals with life in ways that we recognize and either emulate or reject.	

Haruf's fine writing includes precise character development, and language choices that led me to reread many sentences for the sheer pleasure of hearing them again. Readers who like fiction that unveils a slice of the life we all live should consider reading this finely written novel.

Eventide	Haruf, Kent	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2004	
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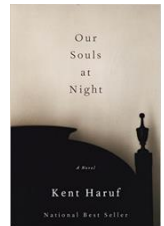
**Friendship.** Kent Haruf was an American writer who used his fine writing skills to reveal the deep and abiding goodness in our human nature. The last book he wrote is titled, [Our Souls at Night](#), and I highly recommend it to any reader who wants to feel good after reading a book. Protagonists Addie Moore and Louis Waters had been neighbors, and not quite friends. Their respective spouses had died and each now lives alone. Haruf draws them together through all the best elements of a talented writer: finely written descriptive language, realistic dialogue and the revelation of human behavior in all its complexity and wonder. Through talk and touch, a friendship develops between Addie and Louis that will delight any reader.


[Our Souls at Night](#)

Haruf, Kent

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[7/9/15](#)



A Man Came Out of a Door in the Mountain	Harun, Adrienne	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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Ash and Bone

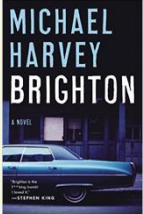
Harvey, John

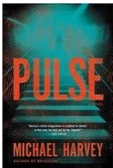
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Shelf of Ennui 2006


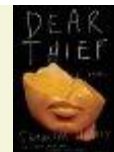




<a href="#"><u>Brighton</u></a>	Harvey, Michael	****	<a href="#"><u>7/15/16</u></a>	<p><b>Home.</b> Michael Harvey's crime novels have been set in Chicago. In his latest novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Brighton</u></a>, Harvey returns home to Boston, as does protagonist Kevin Pearce. Although Pearce is a <i>Boston Globe</i> reporter, he has avoided his Brighton neighborhood for decades. When he finally returns, he encounters family, friends, loyalty and betrayal. Issues from the past gain new import in the present. I was thoroughly entertained by Harvey's prose, the interesting characters and the fast-paced plot. Fans of gritty crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>Pulse</u></a>	Harvey, Michael	****	<a href="#"><u>3/26/19</u></a>	<p><b>Creepy.</b> Those who have read previous novels by Michael Harvey know that he can really tell a good story. In his novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Pulse</u></a>, Harvey takes us back to Boston in the 1970s. His prose brings to life the rawness of the Combat Zone and the racial tensions in the city. We get a crime story with murder, bad cops, and enough foul language to last the year. We also get the creepiest protagonist in a long time, sixteen-year-old orphan Daniel Fitzsimmons. His landlord explores with Daniel how the mind can use energy to send pulses to others to push them in desired ways. Daniel tries the technique on his girlfriend with humorous results. The creepy part comes from what seems to be Daniel's foreknowledge of events. There's something for any eclectic reader in this novel: fascinating characters, thrilling action, crimes, and an otherworldly something. Maybe Harvey will set his next novel back in Chicago where everything is normal.</p>	
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The Chicago Way	Harvey, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<u>The Fifth Floor</u>	Harvey, Michael	***	<u>Dec 08</u>	<p><b>Scandal.</b> Novel reprises private eye and ex-cop Michael Kelly in a case that connects the past and present. Kelly's interest increases when the Chicago mayor summons Kelly to his fifth floor office to warn him off the case.</p>	
<u>The Governor's Wife</u>	Harvey, Michael	****	<u>8/25/15</u>	<p><b>Swindle.</b> The latest novel by Michael Harvey to feature Chicago private eye Michael Kelly is titled, <u>The Governor's Wife</u>. Kelly's latest investigation involves his search for a missing former governor, who disappeared after being sentenced to prison. The wife of the governor becomes a focus for Kelly's investigation and that's when the action heats up. I zipped through this novel quickly, and was thoroughly entertained by plot, character and dialogue. Readers who like crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this installment and this series.</p>	
<u>The Innocence Game</u>	Harvey, Michael	****	<u>6/25/13</u>	<p><b>Justice.</b> Readers who love complicated plots with plenty of twists are those most likely to enjoy the latest crime novel from Michael Harvey, <u>The Innocence Game</u>. Harvey reprises the protagonist from earlier novels, Michael Kelly, to play a secondary and critical role in this one. Journalism students and their teacher all have backstories that add interest to the plot as they try to dig up evidence of a wrongful conviction to ensure that justice is done. I was thoroughly entertained by this novel, which will appeal in a special way to those in Chicago who admire the ways in which Harvey captures the setting and culture so perfectly.</p>	

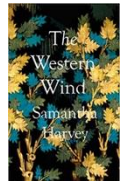
<a href="#"><u>The Third Rail</u></a>	Harvey, Michael	***	<a href="#"><u>8/25/10</u></a>	<p><b>Spree.</b> Michael Harvey's third novel to feature Chicago private eye Michael Kelly is titled, <a href="#"><u>The Third Rail</u></a>. This time out, Kelly finds himself in the center of a killing spree and gets played by the mayor, the feds, the police, and most especially, the killer. Squeamish readers will find the violence over the top, and mystery lovers will have the good and bad guys sorted out without much strain to the little gray cells. Readers who like escape thriller novels will be entertained by this novel. This is a decent selection for an airplane ride or on vacation, since it doesn't require much effort to read. Readers looking for deeper character development won't find it here.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>We All Fall Down</u></a>	Harvey, Michael	***	<a href="#"><u>7/27/11</u></a>	<p><b>Insiders.</b> Michael Harvey's latest thriller to feature Chicago private detective Michael Kelly is titled, <a href="#"><u>We All Fall Down</u></a>. Kelly is brought inside a tightly held group that is investigating the release of a pathogen that could create havoc in the city and the death of many people. It is Kelly who figures out all the puzzle pieces, despite him being the most unlikely participant in a case that is way outside his role and expertise. For readers able to move beyond the implausibility of his involvement, the plot moves rapidly, and the action moves fast enough to keep any reader engaged. There are insiders with their own plots and plans among the politicians, scientists and criminals. Even those closest to Kelly have a lot at stake in the outcome. Readers who like action thrillers will find a lot to enjoy here as Harvey explores a new terror threat from black biology.</p>	
Dear Thief	Harvey, Samantha	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

The Western Wind

Harvey, Samantha

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



Die, My Love

Harwicz, Ariana

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



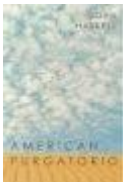
American Purgatorio

Haskell, John

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Apr 05

**Desire.** Thoughtful and serious novel of narrator's transition from one life to another through a purifying and redemptive journey in search of the missing wife he deeply desires.



Imagine Me Gone

Haslett, Adam

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6/24/16

**Invisibility.** I thoroughly enjoyed reading Adam Haslett's novel titled, Imagine Me Gone, and I am hesitant to say why. If I say the subject matter explores mental illness, you might be inclined to take a pass. If I say that the novel deals with the primacy of family love over everything else, you might be inclined to think you've read this story before, and often enough. If I tell you the writing is superb, you might not care. So here's my pitch: there are five interesting narrators in this novel; mental illness is often shunted to the sidelines or ignored as long as it remains out of sight; and one of these narrators could well be someone just like you. Mental illness is present among lots of families, perhaps yours. Fine writing can lead us to insights about ourselves. This novel is finely written, packed with insights, and makes visible something well worth seeing.



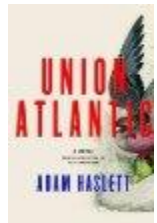
Union Atlantic

Haslett, Adam

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8/16/10

**Systemic.** Adam Haslett's debut novel, Union Atlantic, provokes readers to think about the established values that support our society and frame the behaviors that are rewarded or punished. Each of the key characters in this novel behaves in ways that reflect a worldview formed by life's experience. Doug Fanning left the impoverished home of his alcoholic mother to join the military, served in the Gulf, and returned home to a banking meritocracy that rewarded his focus on producing profits by any means. His boss was willing to look the other way as long as the bank, Union Atlantic, was making money. Fanning lives a lonely workaholic life and builds a McMansion in Finton, Massachusetts, next door to Charlotte Graves, a retired history teacher. Her values are set in opposition to Doug's: she values the land and clear-headed thinking. Her brother, Henry, chairs the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, believes in strong government and keeping the system afloat. Nate is a teen grieving the death of his father, and he enters the lives of both Charlotte and Doug raging with a desire to love and be loved while pleasing others. Solitude and loss pervade these pages, while life goes on, packed with major life-changing events. This is a fine debut novel that most readers will enjoy.

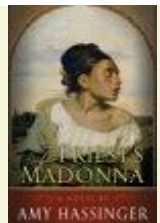


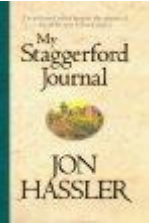
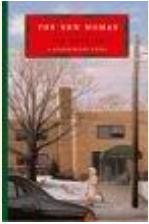
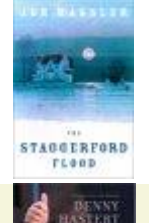



The Priest's  
Madonna

Hassinger, Amy


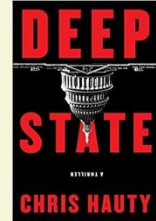

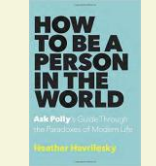
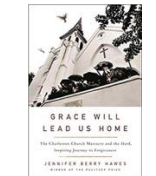
Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



<a href="#"><u>My Staggerford Journal</u></a>	Hassler, Jon	***		This short book allows us to know more about the author and what went on in his life in the year or so it took to write and publish his fine novel, Staggerford. Hassler is a fine fiction writer and this journal provides enjoyable reading, especially for those who would like to know the author better.	
<a href="#"><u>The New Woman</u></a>	Hassler, Jon	***	<a href="#"><u>Feb 06</u></a>	<b>Transitions.</b> Latest Staggerford series novel features 87-year-old former teacher Agatha McGee and her transition from living on her own to moving into the Sunset Senior Apartments. Fine writing, interesting characters.	
<a href="#"><u>The Staggerford Flood</u></a>	Hassler, Jon	***	<a href="#"><u>Nov 02</u></a>	<b>Community Life.</b> Hassler captures rural life, friendship and the challenge of making moral decisions for the greater good. His writing is always crisp and clear, with well-selected images, and flawless dialogue.	
Speaker : lessons from forty years in coaching and politics	Hastert, Denny	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
I Lost My Love in Baghdad: A Modern War Story	Hastings, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<a href="#"><u>The Last Magazine</u></a>	Hastings, Michael	****	<a href="#"><u>7/9/14</u></a>	<b>Satire.</b> I first noted Michael Hastings' writing when his profile of General Stanley McChrystal in <i>Rolling Stone</i> gathered widespread attention. I was aware of his death in an automobile crash last year. When I heard that his widow found a completed novel in his files, morbid curiosity led me to read it. In <a href="#"><u>The Last Magazine</u></a> , Hastings satirizes the newsweekly of 2002, around the birth of its	



				irrelevance to journalism. The antics of the characters are hilarious and wicked. The fact that Hastings worked at <i>Newsweek</i> makes it easy to see the dotted lines between his fictional characters and the crew he worked with. I wonder that if he lived, he might have made the connections less transparent. Readers who pay attention to journalism are those most likely to appreciate the satire.	
The Operators: The Wild and Terrifying Inside Story of America's War in Afghanistan	Hastings, Michael	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<a href="#">Deep State</a>	Hauty, Chris	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
Bearing the Body	Havazelet, Ehud	**		Read and not reviewed.	
<a href="#">How to Be a Person in the World</a>	Havrilesky, Heather	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<a href="#">Grace Will Lead Us Home: The Charleston Church Massacre and</a>	Hawes, Jennifer Berry	*****	<a href="#">9/3/19</a>	<b>Ongoing.</b> For most citizens, the tragedy at Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015 was one more in a series of violent episodes in recent years. Thanks to a finely written book by Jennifer Berry Hawes, titled, <a href="#">Grace Will</a>	

[the Hard, Inspiring Journey to Forgiveness](#)

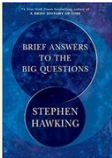
[Lead Us Home: The Charleston Church Massacre and the Hard, Inspiring Journey to Forgiveness](#), interested readers can understand the context and aftermath more thoroughly. The survivors and their families have stories that Hawes tells with great skill, and there are issues with Mother Emanuel church that I didn't know about until I read this book. Fans of Charleston will appreciate the ways in which this book tells the story of how this fine community has engaged in a long healing process.

[Brief Answers to the Big Questions](#)

Hawking, Stephen

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



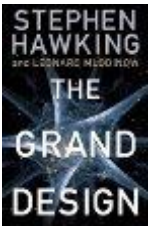
[The Grand Design](#)

Hawking, Stephen

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[9/21/10](#)

**Thinking.** Philosophers, theologians and physicists all ask the really big questions, like why do we exist? In the new book, [The Grand Design](#), Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow present a brief and readable perspective on the theories that lead them to conclude that we exist because our planet is in just the right location to support life, and that this could have occurred without any divine intervention. The authors explore the developments in M-theory, a unified set of theories that answer the questions about why the universe behaves the ways it does. As a non-physicist, I found this book readable, although I expect that while I understood the words, I still don't quite get it. Nonetheless, it's rewarding to be exposed to the thinking of these scientists in an accessible way, and to think along with them about those really big questions.



On intelligence / How a New Understanding of the Brain Will Lead to the Creation of Truly Intelligent Machines	Hawkins, Jeff	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>Into the Water</u>	Hawkins, Paula	*****	<u>6/2/17</u>	<p><b>Viewpoints.</b> Every time I allowed my attention to drift while reading Paula Hawkins' novel titled, <u>Into the Water</u>, I was punished when I realized I lost track of what time period the narrative was in and whose viewpoint was being exposed. After the third time I had to re-read pages, Hawkins kept me alert with my full attention as the novel demands keeping track of a large cast of characters and different deaths at different times. The reward for this close reader was a delightful feeling of satisfaction when all the mysteries were solved. Fans of complicated plots and large casts of characters who all contribute important elements to the story, are those readers most likely to enjoy reading this complicated and entertaining mystery.</p>	
<u>The Girl on the Train</u>	Hawkins, Paula	*****	<u>3/20/15</u>	<p><b>Lies.</b> Readers don't need to think a lot while reading the exciting debut novel by Paula Hawkins titled, <u>The Girl on the Train</u>. Some psychological thrillers require close analysis and present multiple levels of meaning. This novel lets readers relax, listen to the unreliable narrator, and revel in the action, including the twists and lies that permeate the novel. This novel could have been written far better than it is, and might then have been less popular. In its current form, it's a kick to read and I loved it.</p>	

[Before the Fall](#)

Hawley, Noah

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[11/5/16](#)

**Mortality.** Readers who enjoy thrillers with fast paced action and plenty of visual imagery to bring every scene to life are those most likely to enjoy reading Noah Hawley's novel titled, [Before the Fall](#). The action begins with a dramatic crash of a small plane, and the heroic action of protagonist Scott Burroughs to swim a long distance with a four-year old passenger, saving their lives. Scott is a painter whose presence on the plane was a fluke. The backstory of the other passengers made for interesting exposition, and including a larger than life cable news personality added to the dramatic tension. Hawley also uses the story as a way to reflect on mortality, and I thought the title could also refer to life in the Garden of Eden. Wealthy people, shady dealings, 24-hour news, and a mystery of why the plane crashed combine to produce an exciting story that's quick to read.



Mr. and Mrs.  
Disraeli: A  
Strange  
Romance

Hay, Daisy

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



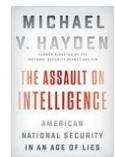
[The Assault on  
Intelligence:  
American  
National  
Security in an  
Age of Lies](#)


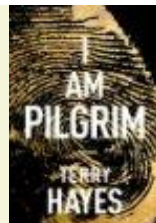
Hayden, Michael  
V.


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[6/9/18](#)

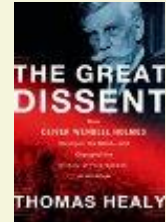
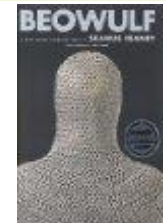
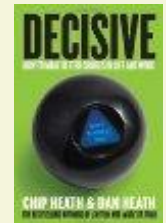
**Cold.** Former American spymaster Michael V. Hayden pulls no punches in a book titled, [The Assault on Intelligence: American National Security in an Age of Lies](#). With cold precision, Hayden dissects the current status of the intelligence community and judges that the current assault inhibits the United States' capabilities to address global threats. Any reader interest in public affairs should consider reading this book.



<a href="#"><u>Twilight of the Elites: America After Meritocracy</u></a>	Hayes, Christopher	***	<a href="#"><u>9/4/12</u></a>	<p><b>Equality.</b> Readers who enjoy public policy, sociology and politics are those most likely to enjoy Christopher Hayes' book, <a href="#"><u>Twilight of the Elites: America After Meritocracy</u></a>. While he is a product of the meritocracy which he proposes has run its course, Hayes makes a case for equality of outcome rather than equality of opportunity. As American society has become more stratified, and institutions have failed stakeholders, the average American has lost confidence in the way things are. They no longer trust government, Wall Street, the Catholic Church or Major League Baseball, all examples that Hayes explores. Whether a reader agrees or disagrees with Hayes, he speaks with eloquence and persuasively using lots of examples to support his views.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin</u></a>	Hayes, Terrance	****	<a href="#"><u>12/17/18</u></a>	<p><b>Virtuoso.</b> Every time I finish reading a collection of poems, I think that I should read more poetry. There are seventy poems in a collection by Terrance Hayes titled, <a href="#"><u>American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin</u></a>. All the poems have the same title. They were written during the early months of the Trump administration. There's a wide range in this collection of sonnets: no two poems seemed connected. Surprises are on every page: high energy, creative wordplay, emotional depth. The structure is finely built, within each sonnet and in the organization of the collection. Fans of fine writing are those readers most likely to enjoy this well-written and creative collection.</p>	
I Am Pilgrim	Hayes, Terry	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

<u>The Real Thing: Truth and Power at the Coca-Cola Company</u>	Hays, Constance	***	<u>May 04</u>	<b>Arrogance.</b> Four hundred pages about arrogant executive behavior from the beginning of the company until almost the present. Recent executive turmoil at the company calls for a sequel.	
<u>A Walk Through Paris</u>	Hazan, Eric	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<u>A Thousand Naked Strangers: A Paramedic's Wild Ride to the Edge and Back</u>	Hazzard, Kevin	****	<u>5/26/16</u>	<b>Grady.</b> Kevin Hazzard tells fewer than a thousand stories in his book titled, <u>A Thousand Naked Strangers: A Paramedic's Wild Ride to the Edge and Back</u> . He reflects about the decade he spent as a paramedic, mostly at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. I laughed often and winced regularly. Hazzard had a lot of fun as a paramedic, became very good at the job, then burned out. He describes all of this and more in this engaging book.	
<u>The Great Fire</u>	Hazzard, Shirley	***	<u>Feb 04</u>	<b>Losses.</b> Lyrical novel set after World War II when characters struggle to reinvent their lives and recover from suffering and the lack of love. The fire cleanses some and immolates others.	
<u>Mindless: Why Smarter Machines are Making Dumber Humans</u>	Head, Simon	***	<u>11/21/14</u>	<b>Process.</b> Simon Head raises an important issue in his book titled, <u>Mindless: Why Smarter Machines are Making Dumber Humans</u> . All the redesigned business processes and algorithms that have transformed work through computer business systems may be displacing the greater value of the judgment of a skilled worker. While he rails against this latest application of scientific management to the workplace, he does it using prose that will likely be tedious to most readers. If you have an interest in business process, this is a book that should be part of your education. Let's hope that more authors engage on this topic and offer greater eloquence, especially for general readers.	



The Great Dissent: How Oliver Wendell Holmes Changed His Mind--and Changed the History of Free Speech in America	Healy, Thomas	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>Beowulf</u>	Heaney, Seamus	***		We admit to finally getting around to reading Beowulf. Some vague memories of excerpts in high school. This translation by Nobel winner Heaney sings.	
<u>Decisive: How to Make Better Choices in Life and Work</u>	Heath, Chip and Dan Heath	****	<u>7/26/13</u>	<b>Process.</b> Does anyone really need a how-to book on making decisions? Since I enjoyed at least one previous book by brothers Chip and Dan Heath, I picked up their latest titled, <u>Decisive: How to Make Better Choices in Life and Work</u> . They take some of the latest results of cognitive research and psychology and present a process for making better decisions. Their four-part WRAP process reeks of common sense: Widen your options; Reality test your assumptions; Attain some distance and Prepare to be wrong. If most of us used this kind of common sense, chances are we'll make better decisions. The prose in this book is always lively, and the examples interesting and entertaining. You may not think you need a how-to book on making decisions, but after reading it, you might internalize an idea or two that will lead to better decisions.	

Made to Stick:  
Why Some Ideas  
Survive and  
Others Die

Heath, Chip and  
Dan Heath

\*\*\*\*

Mar 07

**Success.** Great presentation of why some ideas are conveyed and remembered while others are forgotten.



Switch: How to  
Change Things  
When Change Is  
Hard

Heath, Chip and  
Dan Heath

Unread

I lost interest at page 34. Shelf of Ennui 2011.

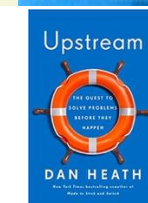


Upstream: The  
Quest to Solve  
Problems Before  
They Happen

Heath, Dan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.

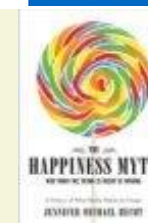


The Happiness  
Myth

Hecht, Jennifer  
Michael

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



Accidents

Hedaya, Yael

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

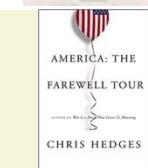


America: The  
Farewell Tour

Hedges, Chris

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



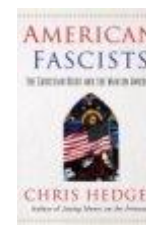
American  
Fascists: The  
Rise of the  
Christian Right

Hedges, Chris

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Mar 07

**Intolerance.** Hedges proposes that we must no longer tolerate the intolerance of our fellow citizens. He deliberately infuriates potential readers with his rhetoric, thereby testing his premise.

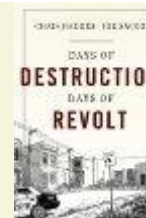


Days of  
Destruction,  
Days of Revolt

Hedges, Chris

Unread

I opened this book, read a few pages, leafed through the rest of the book and decided not to read it. Shelf of Ennui 2012.

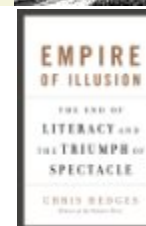


Empire of  
Illusion: The  
End of Literacy  
and the  
Triumph of  
Spectacle

Hedges, Chris

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010

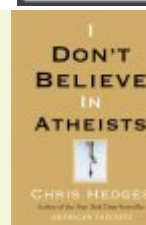


I Don't Believe  
in Atheists

Hedges, Chris

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

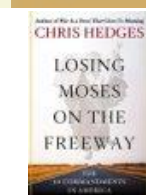


Losing Moses  
on the Freeway

Hedges, Chris

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

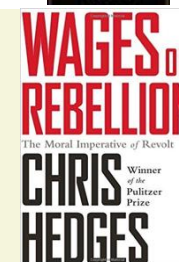


Wages of  
Rebellion

Hedges, Chris

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



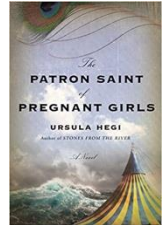
The Patron Saint of Pregnant Girls

Hegi, Ursula

\*\*\*\*

12/9/20

**Symbolism.** No symbol is subtle in Ursula Hegi's novel titled, The Patron Saint of Pregnant Girls. Set on an island off Germany in the late nineteenth century, the joy from a traveling circus turns to despair after a giant wave drowns three children. The novel opens with that dramatic action, then develops the characters of three surviving mothers and how they deal with loss. Life on a small island means that there's no escape from the looks on the faces of everyone who knows what the wave took away from you. Hegi allows the unfolding of joy in a beautiful setting while maintaining the presence of pain that will never go away. The novel celebrates these women, and every reader can gain strength from spending time with them in this novel.



Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime


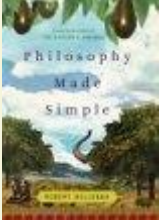
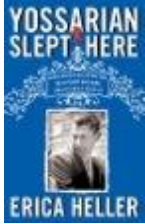

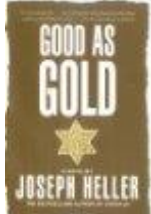
Heilemann, John and Mark Halperin

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3/12/10

**Inside.** John Heilemann and Mark Halperin must have talked to everyone involved in the 2008 presidential race. The result is titled, Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime, an insider's view of the feats and foibles inside each major candidate's campaign. This is required reading for political junkies, for whom every step and misstep can be savored. For those interested in the dirt, within days of release, the most startling revelations were covered in the press. I was less interested in the gossip, and more intrigued by strategy and execution. With even the short distance from these events, it is easy to see the gaps in the Clinton and McCain strategies that led to their losses. At times the level of backbiting and infighting among staffers of the same candidate made me feel like I was reading about high school cliques. Any reader looking for a distraction from the current political mauling over healthcare will find a few hours of gossipy revelation and a bit of insight into strategy and execution on the pages of Game Change.




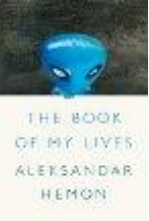
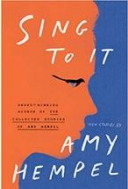
<a href="#"><u>The Professional</u></a>	Heinz, W.C.	***	<a href="#"><u>Mar 02</u></a>	Published in 1958; released recently in paperback; great dialogue and character development in story of a middleweight fighter and his training for a championship fight.	
<a href="#"><u>Philosophy Made Simple</u></a>	Hellenga, Robert	***	<a href="#"><u>May 06</u></a>	<b>Questioning.</b> Enjoy thinking about truth, beauty, life and death, as protagonist Rudy Harrington explores those and other questions as he changes his life and surroundings in this finely written novel.	
<a href="#"><u>Yossarian Slept Here: When Joseph Heller Was Dad, the Apthorp Was Home, and Life Was a Catch-22</u></a>	Heller, Erica	***	<a href="#"><u>8/23/11</u></a>	<b>Place.</b> There's double pleasure in Erica Heller's memoir, <a href="#"><u>Yossarian Slept Here: When Joseph Heller Was Dad, the Apthorp Was Home, and Life Was a Catch-22</u></a> : the family anecdotes she selects are finely written, and the setting for many of them, the apartments in the Apthorp, provide a context and a sense of place that bring the words to life. There's enough humor throughout this memoir to offset those aspects of family relationships that are marked by alienation and disappointment. All life is packed with contradictions, and Heller writes in a way that most readers will find engaging and interesting.	
<a href="#"><u>Catch-22</u></a>	Heller, Joseph	***	<a href="#"><u>1/00</u></a>	The book that defined the craziness of war and named the absurdity of bureaucracy.	
<a href="#"><u>Good as Gold</u></a>	Heller, Joseph	***	<a href="#"><u>1/00</u></a>	One of our favorites. Love the scene of Gold meeting his father in heaven.	




<a href="#"><u>Now and Then: From Coney Island to Here</u></a>	Heller, Joseph	***	<a href="#"><u>1/00</u></a>	Heller's autobiography. You don't have to be from Brooklyn to enjoy this (but it helps).	
<a href="#"><u>The Dog Stars</u></a>	Heller, Peter	*****	<a href="#"><u>1/10/13</u></a>	<p><b>Home.</b> There's nothing like a beautiful dystopic novel to restore one's confidence in the indomitable human spirit. I read Peter Heller's debut novel, <a href="#"><u>The Dog Stars</u></a>, just after the infuriating political morass involving the fiscal cliff. I was ready to spend time in another society. Along came the world Heller creates: one in which 99.7% of the population has been killed by a super-flu. The people still living do what is necessary to survive, and find love or a home where they can. There is a longing for connection, and a pressing need to protect oneself from those who are set on doing harm. Protagonist Hig is a pilot, who still has fuel for a 1956 Cessna, and he flies with his dog Jasper to keep the perimeter secure for the compound where they live with the competent and gruff Bangley, who is quick to kill anyone who threatens their protected home. In our world or in Heller's all we really need is love, and after Jasper dies, Hig flies beyond his comfortable range to make a new human connection and by the end of the novel he learns the meaning of "home." Readers who haven't tired of post-apocalyptic fiction should consider reading this heartwarming novel about hope and love, and what home can become.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Painter</u></a>	Heller, Peter	*****	<a href="#"><u>5/16/14</u></a>	<p><b>Skills.</b> The more pages I turned while reading Peter Heller's novel, <a href="#"><u>The Painter</u></a>, the more I appreciated the author's skill. Every time I came to an understanding about protagonist Jim Stegner, Heller would add a layer of complexity. All the characters in the novel reside in that gray area</p>	



				<p>where most of us live as neither wholly good nor wholly bad. Generally good people do very bad things and generally bad people do very good things. Heller twisted and turned my expectations about behavior as his lyrical prose mesmerized me with descriptions of western outdoor life. Stegner's skills as an artist and as a killer seemed almost effortless. The depths of his love and loss influenced both his art and his violence. I highly recommend this novel to readers who enjoy literary fiction and who can tolerate depictions of violence.</p>	
<a href="#">The River</a>	Heller, Peter	*****	<a href="#">5/28/19</a>	<p><b>Wilderness.</b> I consider cities and sidewalks to be my natural habitat and try to spend as little time as possible any place that might be considered wilderness. I can visit remote places vicariously in novels like the one by Peter Heller titled, <a href="#">The River</a>. Friends since college, Wynn and Jack are on a carefree canoe trip on a river in northern Canada. Both feel at home in the wilderness and have the competence to handle whatever comes their way. Heller injects tension early in this well-told story and maintains a thrilling pace over two hundred and fifty pages as he describes a fight for survival against imminent threats to life. I'm less likely than ever to take a wilderness trip after reading this exciting novel.</p>	
<a href="#">A Look Over My Shoulder: A Life in the Central Intelligence Agency</a>	Helms, Richard	***	<a href="#">Feb 04</a>	<p><b>Epitaph.</b> Comprehensive memoir by late Director of Central Intelligence. Strong opinions, recognizing that perspectives can vary. Inside view of historic events over three decades.</p>	
<a href="#">In Sunlight and in Shadow</a>	Helprin, Mark	*****	<a href="#">12/13/12</a>	<p><b>Images.</b> If you're looking for a long novel to enjoy on these cold winter nights, consider Mark Helprin's <a href="#">In Sunlight and in Shadow</a>. The vivid images of Manhattan after World War II provide a lush backdrop for two main motifs: a love story between protagonist Harry Copeland and heiress</p>	

Catherine Thomas Hale, and Harry's violent encounters with the protection racket. Harry inherited a struggling leather goods business from his father, and Catherine is the only child of a wealthy Wall Street financier. If there is such a thing as a character who is too virtuous, Helprin may have created one in Harry. Without fail, against all obstacles, Harry's character remains steadfast in doing what's right. The light and dark themes from the title to the descriptive language to the scenes of love and war, provide striking contrasts of the best and worst in human nature and behavior. This is a big book set in a big city addressing big issues. Readers who like to become immersed in a place and time alongside likeable heroes and wicked villains are those most likely to enjoy this lushly written and satisfying book.

<a href="#"><u>Invented Eden: The Elusive, Disputed History of the Tasaday</u></a>	Hemley, Robin	**	<a href="#"><u>Aug 03</u></a>	<b>Exploitation.</b> Were the Tasaday fakes, or really a primitive, unspoiled tribe at the time news stories about them were spread worldwide? Were those who called this a scam the real liars? If you care about these questions, this is the book for you.	
The Book of My Lives	Hemon, Aleksandar	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<a href="#"><u>Sing To It</u></a>	Hempel, Amy	***	<a href="#"><u>4/19/19</u></a>	<b>Voice.</b> Amy Hempel presents readers with an eclectic range of fifteen short stories in a collection titled, <a href="#"><u>Sing To It</u></a> . Some of the stories are very short and still complete. With great economy, she can capture emotion using just the right words. Her voice can come across as odd and a bit quirky, which may distract some readers. You can find laughter and pain in sentences that follow each other and feel that juxtaposition is perfect. The	

				longest story, Cloudland, surrenders economy for taking us to many places and to different emotions with depth and insight. Fans of finely written literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy the stories in this collection.	
The Dog of the Marriage	Hempel, Amy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<a href="#">True North</a>	Henderson, Bruce	**	<a href="#">Oct 05</a>	<b>Controversy.</b> Was it Admiral Peary or Dr. Frederick Cook who reached the North Pole first at the beginning of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century? Character analysis and human behavior will resonate for many readers.	
<a href="#">Ten Thousand Saints</a>	Henderson, Eleanor	***	<a href="#">7/22/11</a>	<b>Trouble.</b> Coming of age in the late 1980s had much in common and much different from other times. Eleanor Henderson uses the four hundred pages of her novel, <a href="#">Ten Thousand Saints</a> , to present drugs, music, and intense experiences and relationships. The characters are wounded, damaged, neglected, abused and loved. There's tragedy and trouble amid caring while adolescent and adult behavior don't necessarily match up with the ages of the characters. Set in Vermont and New York City, there's an energy to this novel that will keep most readers engaged. By the end, most readers will be glad to close the book and appreciate one's own life and experiences.	
<a href="#">Murder on Naked Beach</a>	Henderson, J.J.	**	<a href="#">June 06</a>	<b>Jaunt.</b> Debut of new mystery series features Lucy Ripkin, a working journalist off on a jaunt from New York to Jamaica for fun and better weather. Both author and protagonist need maturing.	

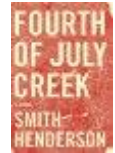
[Fourth of July Creek](#)

Henderson,  
Smith

\*\*\*\*

[12/27/14](#)

**Survival.** Thanks to Smith Henderson's fine writing, especially his character development, I totally enjoyed his debut novel titled, [Fourth of July Creek](#). Protagonist Pete Snow is a rural social worker in Montana. Although his personal and family situation is packed with problems, Pete cares deeply for the troubles of his clients who struggle to survive within the system or isolated from it. Pete adds to his own difficulties when he chooses his clients' needs over those of his family. The struggle for survival fills a lot of this plot, and I was impressed by how Henderson never came close to relieving the tension at play among so many of the characters. Readers who appreciate finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.



[How to Cook Your Daughter](#)

Hendra, Jessica

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[Jan 06](#)

**Abuse.** Memoir of the sexual and emotional abuse she suffered as a child, which her father, Tony, left out of his own 2004 memoir, [Father Joe](#). Raw sadness in this story of courage and recovery.



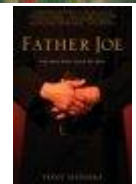
[Father Joe: The Man Who Saved My Soul](#)

Hendra, Tony

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[Dec 04](#)

**Stability.** Finely written memoir by former *National Lampoon* writer as a tribute to Benedictine monk Joseph Warrilow, who provided stability and support for Hendra through four decades.

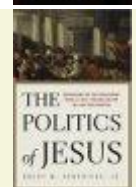


The Politics of  
Jesus

Hendricks, Jr.,  
Obery M.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



Suicide Club

Heng, Rachel

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

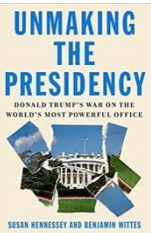


Unmaking the Presidency: Donald Trump's War on the World's Most Powerful Office

Hennessey, Susan and Benjamin Wittes

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.

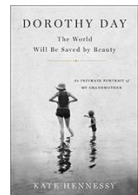


Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved by Beauty: An Intimate Portrait of My Grandmother

Hennessey, Kate

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



The Dinner Club: How the Masters of the Internet Universe Rode the Rise and Fall of the Greatest Boom in History

Henry, Shannon

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Mar 03

**Fly on the Wall.** The moguls let a reporter sit in on the dinners of their monthly investment club. She lets readers in on what happened behind closed doors and how the investments of this group of experts performed.

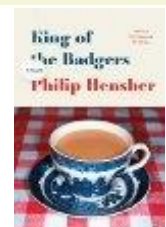


King of the Badgers

Hensher, Philip

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2012.



<a href="#"><u>Losing Our Way: An Intimate Portrait of a Troubled America</u></a>	Herbert, Bob	*****	<a href="#"><u>2/18/15</u></a>	<p><b>Personal.</b> Former <i>New York Times</i> opinion columnist Bob Herbert, has written about contemporary important issues in his book titled, <a href="#"><u>Losing Our Way: An Intimate Portrait of a Troubled America</u></a>. He brings big issues closer to home by using individuals and their stories to support his message. I form my public policy viewpoints from a foundation of values and principles, and then adjust when I gain understanding from particular situations. The people and stories Herbert presents in this finely written book helped me think about some issues more clearly. Readers interested in public policy are those most likely to enjoy reading this book.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Georgetown Set: Friends and Rivals in Cold War Washington</u></a>	Herken, Gregg	*****	<a href="#"><u>7/9/15</u></a>	<p><b>Alsops.</b> Readers with an interest in the three decades from the end of World War II through Watergate and in the policies and politics of the United States will find a lot to enjoy from reading a book by Gregg Herken titled, <a href="#"><u>The Georgetown Set: Friends and Rivals in Cold War Washington</u></a>. Herken takes readers to the neighborhood of Georgetown in Washington, D.C., and presents a cast of characters who lived in that neighborhood and formed or influenced major public policies. While there are lots of characters presented, it seemed to me that two individuals dominated the narrative: journalists Joseph and Stewart Alsop. Political junkies and those interested in Washington, D.C. are the readers most likely to enjoy this book.</p>	
Bicycle : the history	Herlihy, David V.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	



Sex with kings :

500 years of

adultery, power, Herman, Eleanor

rivalry, and

revenge

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



Joe Country

Herron, Mick

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



Reporter

Hersh, Seymour  
M.

\*\*\*\*\*

6/20/18

**Independence.** Seymour M. Hersh admits often in his memoir titled, Reporter, that he's not much of a team player. He also conveys that he has never been uncomfortable in being independent, and in not ingratiating himself as a way to join the "in" crowd. Those traits have served him well during a long career as a successful investigative journalist. Throughout the memoir, Hersh explains journalism, and reveals his hard work as a reporter. Powerful people in government have lied to him over many decades, but sooner or later, Hersh has brought their lies to the attention of all citizens, supported by evidence that has been irrefutable. Imagine my interest, and perhaps yours, as you read that he has material for a book on Dick Cheney but has to wait a while since some of his sources would be too exposed. Any reader interested in public policy will find something of interest in this finely written memoir.



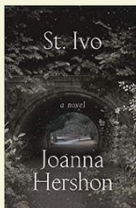
St. Ivo

Hershon, Joanna

\*\*\*\*\*

9/19/20

**Longing.** The emotional intensity surrounding the characters in Joanna Hershon's novel titled, St. Ivo, increases as we understand more about the circumstances of two families. In domestic situations, there's always more to the story than what can be gleaned from observations and limited contact. The suffering, struggle and loss that Hershon draws readers into are real and intense.



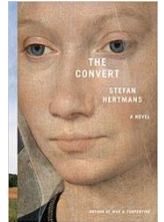
Many readers will reflect on how they would respond to the situations facing these characters. Those readers who enjoy fine writing, deep insights into human behavior, and are comfortable with the unresolved reality common to all of us, will find a lot to enjoy by reading this novel.

The Convert

Hertmans,  
Stefan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



Politics :  
observations &  
arguments,  
1966-2004

Hertzberg,  
Hendrik

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2004

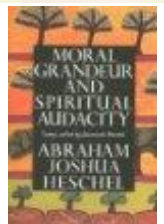


Moral Grandeur  
and Spiritual  
Audacity

Heschel,  
Abraham Joshua

Unread

We stopped around page 250 for no good reason. This book of Rabbi Heschel's essays was edited by his daughter, Susannah.



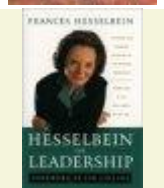
Hesselbein on  
Leadership

Hesselbein,  
Frances

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Dec 02

**Few and Powerful Words.** Collection of essays full of thoughtful and provoking, clear-headed thinking, well-grounded in values.

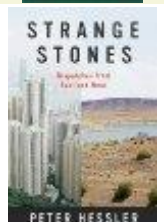


Strange Stones:  
Dispatches from  
East and West

Hessler, Peter

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



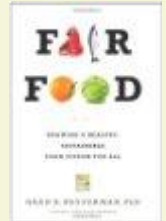
Fair Food:  
Growing a  
Healthy,  
Sustainable  
Food System for  
All

Hesterman, Oran  
B.

\*\*\*

7/25/12

**Citizenship.** Policy matters. Any citizen interested in public policy should consider reading Oran B. Hesterman's book, Fair Food: Growing a Healthy, Sustainable Food System for All. I notice that I seem to eat better in the summer, when the Farmers' Market offers lots of choices, and my CSA box arrives with fresh produce every week. In the middle of this bounty, I occasionally think about what food choices are made by others, producers and consumers, and what the consequences of those choices mean for society. Hesterman has been involved in food policy for decades. In this book he describes problems with our current food policies and practices, and proposes ways to change. Foodies and elites are not the audience for this book. Hesterman talks plainly and clearly to all of us and lays out ways in which anyone can become involved in building a healthy food system that works for everybody.



How Should a  
Person Be?

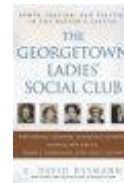
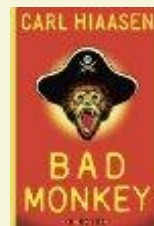
Heti, Sheila

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8/21/12

**Inquiry.** The protagonist of Sheila Heti's novel, How Should a Person Be?, seems to be genuinely searching for an answer to that question. This character, also named Sheila, has recently become divorced, and she is making lists and observing the behavior of others to try to find the answers she seeks. This quirky and odd novel presents email, transcripts of conversations and bits of humor that move things along in Sheila's quest. One key insight: "He was just another man who wanted to teach me something." Like other forms of contemporary art, there will be readers who love this novel, and those who just don't get it. I think I got it, didn't love it, but recommend it to readers who gravitate to young, modern authors. I suggest anyone considering this novel should read a sample first. If you don't like the excerpt, chances are this is not a novel you'll enjoy.



<a href="#"><u>Motherhood</u></a>	Heti, Sheila	****	<a href="#"><u>11/17/18</u></a>	<p><b>Confusion.</b> In her novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Motherhood</u></a>, Sheila Heti captures the struggle of a woman trying to decide whether or not to have a child. Confusion is present on multiple levels: in the questions the woman asks, and in the structure of the novel that mirrors internal confusion. Readers get to spend time with a first-person narrator living her everyday life while struggling with this key question. Modern life is not quite straightforward, and Heti captures the absurdity of expecting simple answers by asking coins to answer yes or no to questions.</p>	
The Georgetown Ladies Social Club: Power, Passion, and Politics in the Nation's Capital	Heymann, C. David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<a href="#"><u>Bad Monkey</u></a>	Hiaasen, Carl	*****	<a href="#"><u>6/25/13</u></a>	<p><b>Hilarious.</b> Don't read Carl Hiaasen's novel, <a href="#"><u>Bad Monkey</u></a>, too quickly, or you might miss something really funny. Hiaasen packs every page of this novel with funny characters and situations, both grisly and slapstick. Protagonist Andrew Yancy has done things to get himself thrown off the Miami Police Force, and now finds himself moved from being a detective for the Monroe County Sheriff's office to a health inspector of restaurants. There's greed, corruption, fraud and malfeasance throughout the novel, each of which provides fodder for Hiaasen's fine writing. I laughed throughout the novel and finished reading it with great satisfaction at the entertainment it provided.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Basket Case</u></a>	Hiaasen, Carl	**	<a href="#"><u>Mar 02</u></a>	<p>Novel with some laughs from South Florida weird people. Rock music fans may enjoy the many references to music and musicians.</p>	

<a href="#"><u>Dance of the Reptiles: Rampaging Tourists, Marauding Pythons, Larcenous Legislators, Crazy Celebrities, and Tar-Balled Beaches: Selected Columns</u></a>	Hiaasen, Carl	****	<a href="#"><u>4/7/14</u></a>	<p><b>Sharp.</b> I am not a regular reader of the <i>Miami Herald</i>, so I don't read Carl Hiaasen's weekly column in that paper. When a collection of those columns like the latest titled, <a href="#"><u>Dance of the Reptiles</u></a>, comes out, I binge read all the selected columns. I gave myself no reprieve: I read all the columns in one sitting. Hiaasen writes sharply with a point of view that leaves nothing to the imagination about where he stands. Readers who like well-written commentary, whether in agreement or disagreement with Hiaasen's views, will find a lot to enjoy in this collection.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Nature Girl</u></a>	Hiaasen, Carl	***	<a href="#"><u>Apr 07</u></a>	<p><b>Desire.</b> Each character acts to excess in the quest to fulfill specific desires. Great satire and humor throughout, with the strangest ensemble of characters yet.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Razor Girl</u></a>	Hiaasen, Carl	****	<a href="#"><u>11/22/16</u></a>	<p><b>Escapades.</b> We live in an age of specialization. Carl Hiaasen's specializes in outlandish humor set in Florida. In his new novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Razor Girl</u></a>, protagonist Merry Mansfield has a specialty as well: her expertise is the unique way in which she performs a car crash scam using a razor. As in earlier novels, Hiaasen packs the action with hilarious escapades by a large cast of unusual characters. Even the huge rats are funny in this novel. Every character seems to specialize in trying to get something, and over the course of the novel, each one gets what he or she deserves. Readers who are looking for something to read with offbeat and ribald humor are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	

[Skinny Dip](#)

Hiaasen, Carl

\*\*\*

[Oct 04](#)

**Swimming.** Great ensemble of offbeat characters, funny plot, and good dialogue. A few hours of enjoyable entertainment.



[Squeeze Me](#)

Hiaasen, Carl

\*\*\*\*

[9/8/20](#)

**Pythons.** Just when I needed a good laugh, I picked up Carl Hiaasen's comic novel titled, [Squeeze Me](#). Set as always in Florida, this time we get the combination of a great protagonist, Angie Armstrong, and political satire about President Trump, Mar-a-Lago and its wealthy members. When a python does what a big snake is prone to do, Angie is the wildlife expert called in to take care of the problem. A great cast of characters, include the return of Skink, will delight Hiaasen fans. Florida at its oddest comes to life for those readers who aren't overly sensitive to political satire.



**Celebrity.** Carl Hiaasen is back with a funny novel titled, [Star Island](#). This book is packed with odd characters, who over the course of a few hundred pages remain unlikeable but become sympathetic. Hiaasen focuses his attention here on the cult of celebrity, and in the case of character Cherry Pye, talentless celebrity. The antics of a full cast of characters lead to laughter and the satisfaction that so many characters receive exactly what they deserve. Skink, the former governor turned swamp rat returns in a heroic role, and Cherry Pye's body double, Ann DeLusia, steals the show through the ways in which her behavior rises above all those around her. This is escapist fiction that intends to entertain, so those readers ready to laugh are the ones most likely to enjoy the outsized characters and zany plot.

[Star Island](#)

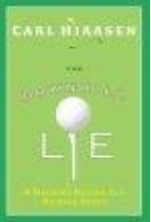
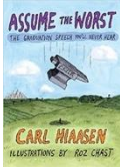
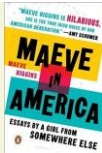
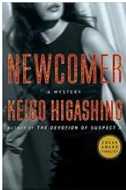
Hiaasen, Carl

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[9/10/10](#)





<a href="#"><u>The Downhill Lie: A Hacker's Return to a Ruinous Sport</u></a>	Hiaasen, Carl	***	<a href="#"><u>Aug 08</u></a>	<p><b>Duffer.</b> More groans than laughs in this chronicle of the writer's return to golf after a 32-year hiatus. He buys more stuff, tries harder, and succeeds less at the game than most readers, lending to a certain glee from schadenfreude.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Assume the Worst: The Graduation Speech You'll Never Hear</u></a>	Hiaasen, Carl and Roz Chast	***	<a href="#"><u>8/17/18</u></a>	<p><b>Brief.</b> For a funny few minutes, consider reading the brief humor book by Carl Hiaasen and Roz Chast titled, <a href="#"><u>Assume the Worst: The Graduation Speech You'll Never Hear</u></a>. Structured as advice to individuals graduating from college, there are plenty of real-world reality checks that will generate smiles or laughs. This is a book that a kindly uncle or aunt would buy for a niece or nephew, and it would never be read. I think many copies will be read while standing in a bookstore, but not purchased. If that's your method, at least buy a coffee, but don't spit it out while you're laughing.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Maeve in America: Essays by a Girl from Somewhere Else</u></a>	Higgins, Helen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<a href="#"><u>Newcomer</u></a>	Higoshiro, Keigo	****	<a href="#"><u>11/9/19</u></a>	<p><b>Details.</b> Tokyo detective Kyoichiro Kaga claims a well-earned place among the great fictional detectives. In the second novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Newcomer</u></a>, in this series by Keigo Higoshiro, Kaga has been assigned to a new precinct. Even before he's assigned his first case, Kaga walks through the neighborhood getting to know people and places, constantly noticing things. Thanks to the details that Kaga pays attention to, he unravels the secrets that solve a murder case. Fans of character-based crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p>	

<a href="#"><u>Ruskinland: How John Ruskin Shapes Our World</u></a>	Hill, Andrew	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
On the Run: A Mafia Childhood	Hill, Gregg and Gina	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<a href="#"><u>20<sup>th</sup> Century Ghosts</u></a>	Hill, Joe	***	<a href="#"><u>May 08</u></a>	<b>Fresh.</b> There's a sense of wonder that permeates each of the 14 stories in this collection, most of which contain an element of horror or science fiction, and plain good writing.	
<a href="#"><u>Full Throttle</u></a>	Hill, Joe	****	<a href="#"><u>11/14/19</u></a>	<b>Variety.</b> I love reading a short story collection with a wide range of settings, and the baker's dozen in the collection titled, <a href="#"><u>Full Throttle</u></a> , by Joe Hill suited my taste perfectly. There are a few new stories in this collection; most have been published over the past decade or so. Hill succeeds in each of those stories by tapping into some part of human nature and revealing it. Always interesting and imaginative, the stories kept me engaged for almost a fortnight as I doled out one story a day. Any reader who loves short fiction should consider reading this collection.	
<a href="#"><u>Heart-Shaped Box</u></a>	Hill, Joe	***	<a href="#"><u>June 07</u></a>	<b>Justice.</b> Skilled and restrained debut novel provides suspense, horror, developed characters, and creativity. Characters are motivated to achieve justice, one way or another.	

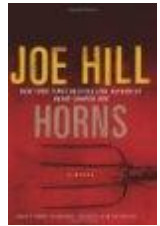
## Horns

Hill, Joe

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3/22/10

**Devilry.** Any reader looking for fun that includes an imaginative plot and finely written dialogue will find a lot to like on the pages of Joe Hill's latest novel, Horns. Protagonist Ignatius William Perrish awakes following a night of heaving drinking and other bad stuff to discover that he has grown a set of horns. A side effect of the horns is that after he touches other people they tell him things that they would normally keep secret. Hill uses this novel to explore the nature of good and evil and the battle of these forces within each of us and in the world. It's also novel of love, loss, and plenty of snakes. Another horn in the novel is the instrument played by Ig's brother, Terry. Hill finds a place in the novel to reference every phrase about the devil we've ever heard. Character depth remains shallow, and while I read Horns swiftly, the pace slowed often enough to lead to some level of annoyance with wanting things to move along. Hill's writing and vivid descriptions kept me going, and by the last page I realized that the whole book was fun to read.



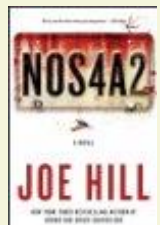
## NOS4A2

Hill, Joe

\*\*\*\*

6/6/13

**Christmasland.** A great horror novel usually requires the kind of creepy character that will cause a reader to feel scared. Joe Hill provides two such creepy characters in his novel, NOS4A2: Charles Talent Manx and his automobile. Manx specializes in transporting victims to a place of amusement he calls "Christmasland," and the way there involves his 1938 Rolls Royce Wraith with the license plate, NOS4A2 (sound it out: nos-four-ah-tu). Protagonist Vic McQueen is the character for readers to identify with, and Hill develops her and places her in situations that were scary enough for me to set the book aside on a few occasions to take a few breaths. Any reader who likes a big novel, a well-told story, and some fright, should read this book.



[Strange Weather](#)

Hill, Joe

\*\*\*\*

[1/4/18](#)

**Compact.** Fans of intelligent horror fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy the four novellas in a collection by Joe Hill titled, [Strange Weather](#). Each of the four stories in this book is imaginative, and provides the kind of spine tingling sensation that horror readers enjoy. Like the four seasons, these novellas are different but part of a whole. Each is tightly written and the compact form seemed to me to intensify the story.



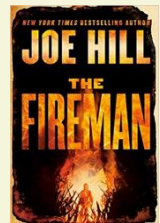
[The Fireman](#)

Hill, Joe

\*\*\*\*\*

[6/17/16](#)

**Survival.** Apocalyptic fiction takes many forms: some are packed with despair, while others offer hope. In the capable hands of Joe Hill, in a novel titled, [The Fireman](#), a deadly spore spreads a disease called Dragonscale across the world. Black and gold marks cover one's body, and many people burst in flames leading to fires and chaos. Hill draws us into the story with characters we care about. His apocalyptic fiction leans away from despair and toward hope. Before long, we forget about the pandemic and root for the survival of a ragtag crew of characters who have found a way to accommodate the spore in their lives and avoid combustion. Hill treats us to a story of sacrifice, redemption and love, while maintaining fast plot momentum and multiple climactic scenes. As after any major catastrophe, there are plenty of bad players to go around, and Hill presents them with clarity. This huge novel is perfect summer reading for those readers who enjoy a well-told story, packed with action and interesting characters.

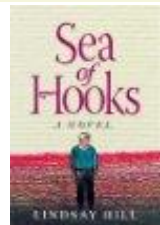


Sea of Hooks

Hill, Lindsay

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



<a href="#">The Nix</a>	Hill, Nathan	****	<a href="#">1/16/17</a>	<p><b>Massive.</b> Readers looking for a big novel to settle into for long while should consider reading Nathan Hill's debut novel titled, <a href="#">The Nix</a>. Protagonist Samuel Andresen-Anderson has become stuck in an unhappy life as a struggling writer and college professor. An opportunity to reconnect with the mother who abandoned him catapults him from his torpor into an adventure, then toward understanding. Hill's humor is often a chapter-saver in this novel, as he can go off for a quite a while with his prose. The scope of the novel covers five decades, and Hill doesn't move quickly. Both the 1960s and contemporary life are presented with great skill, and the journey of mother and child from separation to reunion is offered with insight.</p>	
Death Comes for the Fat Man	Hill, Reginald	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2007		
<a href="#">Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption</a>	Hillenbrand, Laura	****	<a href="#">5/19/11</a>	<p><b>Moving.</b> Readers who like true stories about amazing individuals have to read Laura Hillenbrand's <a href="#">Unbroken</a>. She tells the emotionally moving story of the life of Louie Zamperini. If this were fiction, we would criticize the portrayal of the protagonist as too much larger than life. Since this is a true story, I found myself constantly blown away by Louie and his life. After growing up in the Depression as a hell raiser, he found discipline in track, and competed in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin where he met Hitler. World War II interrupted his athletic career, and led to near death experiences in the Pacific, where one plane he was in crash landed, and another crashed into the sea, leaving Louie and other crew on a raft for weeks, battling sharks, shot at by the enemy, and starving to death. His capture</p>	

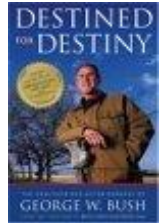
				led to the worst experience of his life: his treatment in a prisoner of war camp in Japan. Throughout everything, Louie's indomitable spirit survived, rebounded and he dealt with whatever life threw at him next, which required even more resilience as he faced PTSD with nightmares of his treatment in captivity, and resorted to alcohol to numb his pain. This moving and powerful story engages readers from the first page to the last.	
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Destined for  
Destiny

Hilleren, Peter

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Read, but not reviewed.



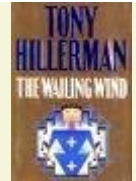
The Wailing  
Wind

Hillerman, Tony

\*

Jul 02

Predictable, formulaic mystery set in the desert Southwest.



Maestra

Hilton, L.S.

\*

5/26/16

**Killer.** I approached L.S. Hilton's debut novel, Maestra, with high expectations. I heard that she was introducing a strong female protagonist, and that the writing was superb. We meet the narrator of the novel, Judith Rashleigh, when she is working for a prominent art auction house. She wants to leave behind her working class background and use her university education to move ahead. Before long, we discover that Judith loves sex, which Hilton describes in great detail. While I stopped reading *Fifty Shades* because of poor writing, Hilton does write well in this novel, but I found the vulgarity of meaningless sex shallow and unnecessary. That wasn't why I hated this novel. Judith is a killer and a sociopath, but Hilton never develops her character with any depth. She kills, she has sex, she schemes and plots. I found that


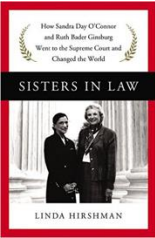
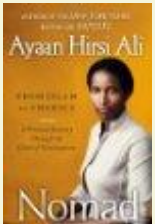




lack of character development to be a missed opportunity. There's an Oxford don reading this novel by graduate Hilton, and shaking his or her head. Readers who are satisfied with plot, violence, and could care less about mindless sex and weak character development are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.

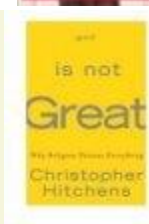
The New Deal: A Modern History	Hiltzik, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
The roads to modernity : the British, French, and American enlightenments	Himmelfarb, Gertrude	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<a href="#"><u>The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life, Freedom, and Justice</u></a>	Hinton, Anthony Ray	*****	<a href="#"><u>9/24/19</u></a>	<b>Inspiring.</b> A friend couldn't believe that I hadn't read Anthony Ray Hinton's memoir titled, <a href="#"><u>The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life, Freedom, and Justice</u></a> , so I picked up this inspiring story and am glad I did. Hinton describes his life as a poor black man in the South who finds himself sentenced to death. How he finds hope from that dark place, and how three decades of incarceration transformed his life and the lives of a community of inmates, occupies much of the narrative. By the time he achieves justice for his mistaken imprisonment, most readers will share Hinton's joy and feel renewed hope in the hope and endurance of the individual human spirit.	
<a href="#"><u>The Adventurist</u></a>	Hipps, J. Bradford	***	<a href="#"><u>12/20/16</u></a>	<b>Office.</b> If one reason you read fiction is to take your mind away from work and your workplace, don't read J. Bradford Hipps' debut novel, <a href="#"><u>The Adventurist</u></a> . Protagonist Henry Hurt is an alienated	

and lonely software engineer prone to great introspection as he grieves the death of his mother. Hipps' prose is carefully constructed, and his word choices exquisite. There's psychological insight on these pages, as we get to look beneath an outer monotonous life to see an active and vibrant inner life. Readers who enjoy literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.

<a href="#"><u>Business Dad: How Good Businessmen Can Make Great Fathers (and Vice Versa)</u></a>	Hirschfeld, Tom	<b>DNR</b>	<a href="#"><u>1/00</u></a>	Tedious and overdone. Take a pass or give as a gift to a young MBA parent that you really don't like.	
<a href="#"><u>Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World</u></a>	Hirshman, Linda	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
Nomad: From Islam to America: A Personal Journey Through the Clash of Civilizations	Hirsi Ali, Ayaan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	

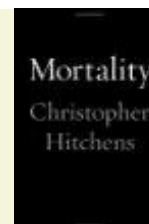
Mortal Friends      Hitchcock, Jane Stanton      Unread      Shelf of Ennui 2010



<a href="#"><u>God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything</u></a>	Hitchens, Christopher	***	<a href="#"><u>July 07</u></a>	<b>Enlightenment.</b> New spokesperson for atheists packs this book with hyperbole and boring dogmatism, with the occasional clever phrase. Few beliefs will change.	
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<a href="#"><u>Hitch-22: A Memoir</u></a>	Hitchens, Christopher	***	<a href="#"><u>6/22/10</u></a>	<b>Separation.</b> Christopher Hitchens has a way with words, and he displays that skill in his memoir, <a href="#"><u>Hitch-22</u></a> . He's a reluctant memoirist, and that shows by how much about his life he neglects to mention on these pages. His detachment from his own life seemed to make the book even more interesting. In the six degrees of separation, it seems that Hitchens can make most connections around the world in two or three. The cast of characters mentioned on these pages reads like a who's who of global and literary affairs of the past four decades. The book also abounds with political theory and intellectual ostentation that will please many readers while alienating others. For me, it was a pleasure to sit back and listen to his life stories told with such finely selected words and to hear him place the greatest emphasis on his own astute and immense intellect and persona.
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<a href="#"><u>Mortality</u></a>	Hitchens, Christopher	****	<a href="#"><u>10/29/12</u></a>	<b>Voice.</b> The black book jacket with the single word title, <a href="#"><u>Mortality</u></a> , provides a crisp and clear summary of what to expect in Christopher Hitchens' last book. Curious to the end, Hitchens finds just the right words to convey the experience of his dying. This fine writer's voice remains lucid as he probes	
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				the journey to his death with insight into our human situation and the fact of our mortality. Any reader who wants to engage in an exploration of dying should read this finely written book.	
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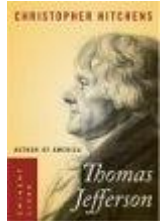
Thomas Jefferson

Hitchens, Christopher

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Nov 05

**Enlightenment.** Intelligent writer prunes Jefferson's legacy to essential points, none of which will come to readers as a surprise.



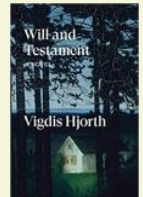
Will and Testament

Hjorth, Vigdis

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5/15/20

**Siblings.** The parents and four siblings in the dysfunctional family described in Vigdis Hjorth's novel set in Norway titled, Will and Testament, will draw readers into their world and then leave us thinking about them for a long time. Often in the novel it seemed as if each individual were a member of a family different from the one described by any one of the members. Perhaps that is true on some level for all families: certain formative experiences provide the lens through which all family life is viewed. The lens for one sibling in this novel is the sexual abuse she suffered from her father, and some siblings and her mother do not believe it really happened. Hjorth explores matters of what we inherit, and the effort by parents to treat children fairly when it comes to their estate. What recompense, though, for abuse? How can incest be weighed against the value of holiday cabins? There's an emotional punch delivered on many pages of this finely written novel.

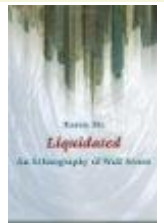




Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street


Ho, Karen

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2011



<a href="#"><u>The Bride Test</u></a>	Hoang, Helen	****	<p><a href="#"><u>6/24/19</u></a></p> <p><b>Breakthrough.</b> The protagonists in Helen Hoang's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Bride Test</u></a>, both need to change their lives. Khai Diep falls on the high functioning end of the autism spectrum. He succeeds at work in California and fails at relationships. Esme Tran wants to be more than a hotel maid in Vietnam. After Khai's mother travels to Vietnam to find a potential bride for Khai, she convinces Esme that the young woman had nothing to lose in coming to America to see if there's a future there for her. Hoang writes from her personal perspective of what life on the autism spectrum is like and offers in this novel a sweet romantic story about the breakthroughs that are necessary in any life to lead to dramatic change. Readers who finish the novel are likely to close the book with a smile.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Kiss Quotient</u></a>	Hoang, Helen	**	<p><a href="#"><u>8/17/18</u></a></p> <p><b>Romance.</b> The protagonist of Helen Hoang's debut novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Kiss Quotient</u></a>, falls under the Asperger's end of the autism spectrum. She's an endearing and complex character, great with algorithms, not so good when it comes to interpersonal skills. After her parents press her toward getting married, she decides she needs to learn how to be successful in a physical relationship, so she hires an escort to develop the necessary skills. At this point, the exposition takes a porny turn that quickly became more boring than erotic. After the physical relationship with escort Michael Phan becomes established, lessons and all, a romance develops, and that part of the novel is sweet. I'm not a romance reader, so I'm sure I don't appreciate this genre, but I expect loads of readers will enjoy this novel. I didn't.</p>	

<a href="#"><u>Where the Dead Sit Talking</u></a>	Hobson, Brandon	*****	<a href="#"><u>12/13/18</u></a>	<p><b>Foster.</b> The narrator and protagonist of Brandon Hobson's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Where the Dead Sit Talking</u></a>, is a fifteen-year-old Cherokee boy named Sequoyah. After his mother lands in jail, Sequoyah ends up in foster care. Keeping in mind that our brains are not fully formed until we're in our twenties, the reliability of Sequoyah as narrator should be challenged by any reader. I find I parked that skepticism as I examined life in a broken system as experienced by a young man wounded by life. Hobson's prose is finely written, and this novel will appeal to those readers who enjoy literary fiction.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Neon in Daylight</u></a>	Hoby, Hermione	*****	<a href="#"><u>2/2/18</u></a>	<p><b>Lurid.</b> Hermione Hoby's debut novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Neon in Daylight</u></a>, paints New York City in 2012 with vivid scenes and characters. Protagonist Kate leaves England for New York City and stumbles into relationships with a father, Bill, and his daughter, Inez. Hoby's prose is finely written and her descriptive language enlivens every page. Along the way, she explores desire, solitude, and the complications of finding one's way in the world. Few readers will like the characters in this novel, and even fewer will emulate their behavior. Any reader who enjoys finely written literary will admire and appreciate Hoby's fine prose and relish this debut novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work</u></a>	Hochschild, Arlie	***	<a href="#"><u>2/00</u></a>	Quoted from <i>Fortune</i> article on 100 best companies to work for.	



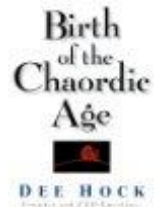
Birth of the  
Chaordic Age

Hock, Dee

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4/00

Great story about the founding of VISA International and the principles on which the organization was based. Hock proposes ways for organizations to reinvent themselves. Highly recommended.

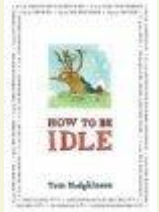


How to Be Idle

Hodgkinson,  
Tom

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



Bettyville

Hodgman,  
George

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6/26/15

**Silence.** Lots of Midwesterners don't get all gushy talking about love. They just do it. George Hodgman's memoir of life in Paris, Missouri soars with love for his mother, Betty, as he describes her indomitable personality in a book titled, Bettyville. The last thing that George expected to do was leave his cultured Manhattan gay lifestyle and return to Paris to care for his mother. That's what he did, and she and he were all the better for it. Readers who love memoirs that capture the vibrancy of our human spirit are those most likely to enjoy reading this finely written book. George and Betty maintained a silence about some things that might have been voiced by other people. This silence was a form of love that makes all the sense in the world.



<a href="#"><u>Vacationland: True Stories from Painful Beaches</u></a>	Hodgman, John	****	<a href="#"><u>2/2/18</u></a>	<b>Privilege.</b> For fans of John Hodgman, the stories from his own life are as entertaining as the made-up ones we've come to know and love. In a book titled, <a href="#"><u>Vacationland: True Stories from Painful Beaches</u></a> , Hodgman turns the comic lens on himself and his life of privilege. Any reader who has spent time in Maine or who owns a vacation home anywhere will find this book especially poignant.	
<a href="#"><u>Blue Diary</u></a>	Hoffman, Alice	****	<a href="#"><u>10/01</u></a>	Her language evokes mood, time and place with precision and care. Her characters capture human nature.	
<a href="#"><u>The Red Garden</u></a>	Hoffman, Alice	***	<a href="#"><u>6/7/12</u></a>	<b>Place.</b> I can't recall reading anything that's quite like Alice Hoffman's <a href="#"><u>The Red Garden</u></a> . This book is a collection of connected stories in which the shared protagonist is a place: a garden in the town of Blackwell, Massachusetts. People come and go over more than 200 years, and this garden continues to produce only red plants. The characters in each story are striking, and Hoffman's imagination makes some of the stories magical or mystical in tone and content. Readers who like short and lyrical fiction are those most likely to enjoy this book.	
<a href="#"><u>The World That We Knew</u></a>	Hoffman, Alice	****	<a href="#"><u>10/15/19</u></a>	<b>Morality.</b> Alice Hoffman explores the forces of good and evil in her novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The World That We Knew</u></a> . Surrounded by the forces of evil, but unable to escape Berlin in 1941, a mother struggles to protect her twelve-year-old daughter. Our world can turn upside down in an instant and evil can seem victorious. Love can survive loss and even in dire situations, the power of love can prevail. Hoffman's prose is finely written, the character development complex and interesting, and the exploration of morality unblinking at both goodness and evil.	

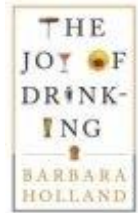
<a href="#"><u>The Billion Dollar Spy: A True Story of Cold War Espionage and Betrayal</u></a>	Hoffman, David E.	*****	<a href="#"><u>10/26/15</u></a>	<p><b>Spycraft.</b> I can find reading pleasure from spy stories, both true and fiction. One of the finest I've read in recent years is <a href="#"><u>The Billion Dollar Spy</u></a> by David E. Hoffman. Journalist Hoffman presents the story of Adolf Tolkachev, a Soviet radar specialist, who provided reams of technical military secrets to the CIA. Thanks to Hoffman's fine writing, we come to understand Tolkachev, his family, his motivations, and the ways in which spycraft was conducted during the height of the cold war. The value of the information received for the compensation paid to Tolkachev will alarm most readers. Any reader interested in the cold war will likely enjoy reading this finely written account.</p>	
Falling Palace	Hofstadter, Dan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<a href="#"><u>A Pleasure and a Calling</u></a>	Hogan, Phil	*****	<a href="#"><u>8/4/15</u></a>	<p><b>Creepy.</b> I got the chills while reading Phil Hogan's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>A Pleasure and a Calling</u></a>. Protagonist William Heming is an estate agent who blends into the community with an invisibility that allows him to not be noticed. That suits him well, since he delights in slipping in an out of houses he has sold over the years, and for which he has retained the keys. (Message to all new homeowners: change the locks!) Mr. Heming keeps things so close to the vest that people in his real estate office don't know where he lives. Hogan presents a character study in this novel of a criminal and psychopath that is creepy thanks to his ordinariness. Read this novel, and start looking over your shoulder, or checking under the beds or in the closets before turning in for the night.</p>	

The Joy of  
Drinking

Holland, Barbara

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Read, but not reviewed.



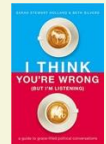
[I Think You're  
Wrong \(But I'm  
Listening\): A  
Guide to Grace-  
Filled Political  
Conversations](#)

Holland, Sarah  
Stewart and Beth  
A. Silvers

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[9/13/19](#)

**Nuance.** Political differences can divide families, churches, workplaces, and neighbors. Polarization has led many of us toward tribalism and to using shorthand that concludes that my team is all good and the other team is all bad. As a balm to heal any wounds from this polarization and a guide to moving ahead, consider reading a finely written and practical book by Sarah Holland (from the left) and Beth Silvers (from the right) titled, [I Think You're Wrong \(But I'm Listening\): A Guide to Grace-Filled Political Conversations](#). Drawn on their personal relationship in exploring areas of difference on their weekly podcast, *Pantsuit Politics*. Holland and Silvers recognize that issues are often nuanced and can't be summarized in a talking point. When we respect others, we listen to them, and when we choose to be gentle and patient, good things follow. The status quo in polarization is creating strangers and we can do better. When we listen and find values we hold in common, we can move beyond the divisions toward healing and acting in ways that serve the common good.



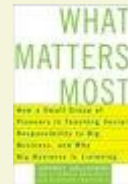



[Judas: How a  
Sister's  
Testimony  
Brought Down a  
Criminal  
Mastermind](#)

Holleeder, Astrid


Unread


Shelf of Ennui 2019.




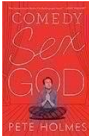
What Matters Most: How a Small Group of Pioneers Is Teaching Social Responsibility to Big Business, and Why Big Business Is Listening	Hollender, Jeffrey	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
The Line of Beauty	Hollinghurst, Alan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<a href="#"><u>The Sparsholt Affair</u></a>	Hollinghurst, Alan	****	<a href="#"><u>7/24/18</u></a>	<p><b>Dots.</b> Some books are perfectly suited for summer reading because they have a sweep and some length that feel like an indulgence and treat while a reader can also relax. One such novel that I enjoyed this summer is Alan Hollinghurst's <a href="#"><u>The Sparsholt Affair</u></a>. The novel covers three time periods: David Sparsholt and friends beginning in 1940; Johnny Sparsholt, his son, in the 1970s; and life today. Hollinghurst's prose will enchant those readers who enjoy literary fiction. In addition to the pleasure I found in his sentences, I also enjoyed what he leaves out: instead of spelling out the action, he gives readers the joy of connecting the dots ourselves. This is a novel about beauty, art, desire, secrets and expression.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Stranger's Child</u></a>	Hollinghurst, Alan	***	<a href="#"><u>1/5/12</u></a>	<p><b>Desire.</b> The atmosphere, tension and drama that Alan Hollinghurst writes in his novel, <a href="#"><u>The Stranger's Child</u></a>, carries readers through 450 pages of a sweeping novel spanning a century of time. Two families provide the focus of our attention, and the many forms of desire are spun out in ways that are witty, exacting in detail, and tragic. The</p>	

character development and attention to detail bring to life past and modern times with precision. Readers who appreciate fine writing and who are willing to tolerate an indirect plot and paths that seem distracting are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

The Cardinal's Hat	Hollingsworth, Mary	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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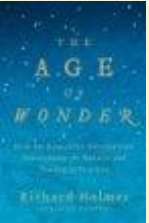


I Wish I'd Been There	Hollinshead, Byron	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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<a href="#">The Killing Kind</a>	Holm, Chris	***	<a href="#">5/13/17</a>	<b>Gruesome.</b> Readers who love action thrillers are those most likely to enjoy the fast pace of Chris Holm's novel titled, <a href="#">The Killing Kind</a> . Protagonist Michael Hendricks was trained as an assassin. Presumed dead after a false flag mission, he decides to leave his old life behind and find redemption of sorts by becoming a killer of killers. He'd charge clients ten times the price a hitman was being offered to kill the client and for that price would kill the hitman. Holm takes readers through the paces on what that looks like in gruesome detail, then fills in the backstory about Hendricks while keeping plot momentum rolling. If this sounds like your idea of fun reading, go for it.	
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<a href="#">Comedy Sex God</a>	Holmes, Pete	****	<a href="#">8/5/19</a>	<b>Journey.</b> The title of Pete Holmes' book, <a href="#">Comedy Sex God</a> , tells the truth about the three topics covered inside. When I first saw the cover, I thought the first two words of the title were	
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adjectives. Not so. Pete tells us about his life in comedy, his experience with sex in ways that will amuse many readers, and his journey toward finding God in his life. All of our lives are meandering journeys in one way or another. Pete was raised as an evangelical Christian and that influenced greatly his coming of age sexually. Later in his life after he abandoned his religious roots, he rediscovered his spiritual life thanks to Ram Dass. As most readers would expect from a standup comedian, a lot of the stories in this book are hilarious. There's sincerity in his spiritual quest that will resonate for fellow pilgrims on that journey.

The Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science	Holmes, Richard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<u>Where the Truth Lies</u>	Holmes, Rupert	***	<u>Nov 03</u>	<b>Secrets.</b> Fine writing offers plot, dialogue and memorable characters in the context of a study and reflection on how self-interest, friendship and relationships interact.	
<u>The Gifted School</u>	Holsinger, Bruce	****	<u>2/7/20</u>	<b>Deception.</b> People have secrets and Bruce Holsinger pulls us into a swirl of deception in his novel titled, <u>The Gifted School</u> . After a Boulder, Colorado-like suburb announces competitive testing for a new school, the race is on for those families who want to secure places. Holsinger lets us gradually come to know four families, and their connected relationships. As we get to know the characters, we are drawn into a world of privilege and ambitions inside a community divided by	

income and class. Our feelings about different characters change over the course of the novel, and what causes us to laugh in one section can lead us to sadness in another. Spouses have kept secrets from each other. Children are not who we think they are. Readers can reflect about friendship and ambition while considering the steps we are willing to take for our children, and whether those steps are really for us or for the kids.

Why Does the World Exist?: An Existential Detective Story

Holt, Jim

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.

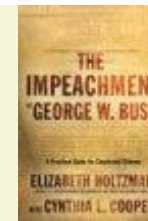


The Impeachment of George W. Bush

Holtzman, Elizabeth

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



Lincoln at Cooper Union: The Speech that Made Abraham Lincoln President

Holzer, Howard

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

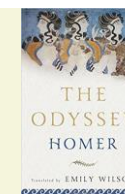


[The Odyssey](#)

Homer,  
translated by  
Emily Wilson

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



<u>Days of Awe</u>	Homes, A.M.	****	<u>8/27/18</u>	<p><b>Sharp.</b> Readers looking for sharp humor along with insight into the contemporary human condition should read the collection of stories by A.M. Homes titled, <u>Days of Awe</u>. The characters in these stories are flawed, just like us. They learn new things about each other and we learn something about ourselves, whether we want to or not.</p>	
May We Be Forgiven	Homes, A.M.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
This Book Will Save Your Life	Homes, A.M.	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
<u>Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine</u>	Honeyman, Gail	****	<u>8/24/17</u>	<p><b>Healing.</b> I found myself enchanted while reading Gail Honeyman's debut novel titled, <u>Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine</u>. Some novels present characters with whom we readily identify. Protagonist Eleanor Oliphant seems to be unlike most of us as the plot begins. She is obviously troubled and quirky, alienated and lonely. We learn about her gradually, and about the formative experiences of her past that require healing. Through friendship, therapy and relationships, Eleanor becomes completely fine, and this reader and others are all the better from spending time with this great character who separates what's important from the rest.</p>	

The Pandemic Century: One Hundred Years of Panic, Hysteria, and Hubris

Honigsbaum, Mark

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7/3/19

**Lessons.** While I was reading Mark Honigsbaum finely written book titled, The Pandemic Century: One Hundred Years of Panic, Hysteria, and Hubris, there were news stories about people vacationing in the Dominican Republic dying of unknown causes, and a woman who died from a flesh eating bacteria that found an open cut on her leg while she was walking at the beach. Honigsbaum chronicles pathogens most readers have heard about, and the spread of them in well-known events including the deadly 1918 Spanish influenza epidemic, and events I knew nothing about, like the 1930 pneumonic plague in Los Angeles and parrot fever. If you think we've learned lessons from the twentieth century, you should definitely read this book.



Etta and Otto and Russell and James

Hooper, Emma

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3/20/15

**Connections.** Emma Hooper muses about memory and identity in her debut novel titled, Etta and Otto and Russell and James, as she takes readers on a journey with octogenarian protagonist Etta who's walking east from Saskatchewan to see the ocean. It doesn't take a reader long to consider that Etta may be facing dementia. After her husband, Otto, receives her note about her journey, he cooks from her recipe cards and engages in something new as he awaits her return. Hooper offers their connections across the kilometers and across time in ways that will delight many readers. Neighbor and long-time friend, Russell, decides to track down Etta. James may be the most interesting character of all, since he is presented as a coyote with whom Etta communicates. The prose soars often, and might frustrate those readers who prefer more directness and clarity. I was entranced by Hooper's prose and found the characters complex and interesting.



Loving Frank

Horan, Nancy

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2008



[Harvest: An Adventure into the Heart of America's Family Farms](#)

Horan, Richard

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[5/10/13](#)

**Nourishing.** I finished reading Richard Horan's book, [Harvest: An Adventure into the Heart of America's Family Farms](#), on the same day I picked up the first CSA veggie box of the season from the family farm my family has supported for years through our participation in what they harvest for our dinner table. Horan describes his journey across America to harvest one crop or another from ten different family farms. These farmers welcome Horan into their lives for a short time, and he relates their story with wit and insight. Readers who like real food and want to visit with a series of farmers will find that this book is the perfect meal. Now to prepare tonight's supper: something with the just-picked ramps, asparagus, lettuces, radishes, dandelion greens and bok choy. Rice will be involved.

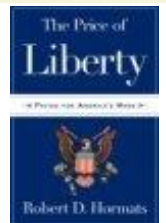


The Price of Liberty

Hormats, Robert D.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007

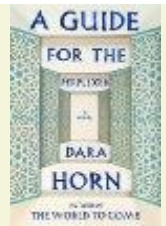


A Guide for the Perplexed

Horn, Dara

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



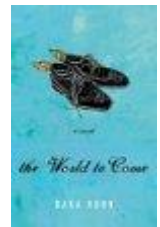
The World to Come

Horn, Dara

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May 06

**Authenticity.** Novel combines a family story with spiritual longing, and presents well developed characters trying to fill in the missing pieces of life, set in a backdrop of the plight of Russian Jews in the Soviet era.



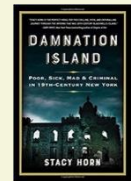
Damnation Island: Poor, Sick, Mad, and Criminal in 19th-Century New York

Horn, Stacy

\*\*\*\*

9/5/18

**Grim.** I will never look at the East River and Roosevelt Island in the same way again, thanks to reading Stacy Horn's book titled, Damnation Island: Poor, Sick, Mad, and Criminal in 19th-Century New York. It was a grim time for lots of people on the island when they were living in prisons, an insane asylum, hospitals and an almshouse. This is a bleak tale of horrific conditions for the most vulnerable members of our community. While the subtitle makes it seem as if there is an old story, conditions remained horrific through the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



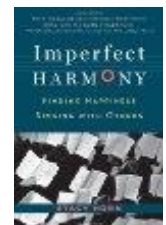
Imperfect Harmony: Finding Happiness Singing with Others

Horn, Stacy

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11/26/13

**Joy.** I imagine two significant audiences for Stacy Horn's delightful book titled, Imperfect Harmony: Finding Happiness Singing with Others. The first audience comprises all of us who sing regularly in groups, or who have been choir or singing club members in the past. For this group, Horn puts into words the wide range of emotions that we feel but may not possess the words to express. The second audience represents all those who know singers who rehearse and perform and wonder why this is done, especially by amateurs. Horn expresses the pure joy of being part of a community creating art, and expressing deep thoughts and emotions through our vocal instruments. I loved this book, but didn't skip a choir rehearsal to read it. After all, how can I keep from singing?

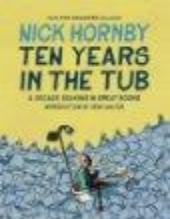




The Restless Sleep	Horn, Stacy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<a href="#">A Long Way Down</a>	Hornby, Nick	***	<a href="#">Aug 05</a>	<b>Support.</b> Novel creates four strangers who meet unexpectedly on a rooftop to commit suicide on New Year's Eve, and end up supporting each other to continue living. Four first person narrators and wit make this enjoyable and entertaining rather than somber.	
<a href="#">Funny Girl</a>	Hornby, Nick	*****	<a href="#">4/11/15</a>	<b>Sixties.</b> Nick Hornby gets certain elements exactly right in his novel titled, <a href="#">Funny Girl</a> . First, when describing life in England during the 1960s, he seems to capture a wide range of how much in the society changed during that decade and he uses the transformation in selected characters to reinforce the overall changes. Second, his dialogue always advanced the plot and developed the characters. Finally, the flaws in his characters and their foibles made for great humor, while never coming across as judgmental or nasty. Protagonist Sophie Straw is a memorable and complex character who epitomizes the transformation in the positions of women during that time. The creative talent in every era can bring focused attention to what is really going on in the world. Hornby kept me interested and engaged in the lives of these characters and I loved reading this novel.	
<a href="#">More Baths Less Talking: Notes from the Reading Life of a Celebrated Author Locked</a>	Hornby, Nick	***	<a href="#">3/25/13</a>	<b>Columns.</b> I drew an unremarkable conclusion after I finished the latest collection of the <i>Stuff I've Been Reading</i> columns by Nick Hornby titled, <a href="#">More Baths Less Talking: Notes from the Reading Life of a Celebrated Author Locked in Battle with Football, Family, and Time Itself</a> . I'd much rather be reading	

in Battle with  
Football,  
Family, and  
Time Itself

a good book than reading about someone else's reading. Hornby writes quite well, and I found something I liked in every column. The problem for me was that by the time I read this selection, I had either already read or passed on the books that Hornby was writing about. If you are looking for great reading selections, you're likely to enjoy reading Hornby's columns. If you're curious about how other readers make their choices, you're likely to find this book informative and useful.

Ten Years in the Tub	Hornby, Nick	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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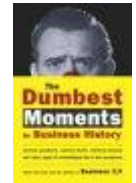
The Dumbest  
Moments in  
Business  
History

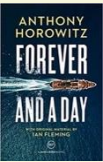
Horowitz, Adam

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May 04

**Dim.** Some chuckles and a few yuks, but not nearly as amusing as the 101 Dumbest Moments in Business listed in *Business 2.0* that led to this book. Silent on the whole S&L debacle: how dumb is that?



<u>Forever and a Day</u>	Horowitz, Anthony	****	<u>1/9/19</u>	<b>Origin.</b> Fans of James Bond 007 are those readers most likely to enjoy reading the new prequel to Casino Royale, a novel by Anthony Horowitz titled, <u>Forever and a Day</u> . I especially enjoyed the focus that Horowitz has on the origins of Bond's work as 007. We see where his cigarette case came from, and his preference for martinis. We learn the test that Bond had to pass to become 007 and what his first case entailed. It's clear that Horowitz had fun being true to Ian Fleming and to the character of Bond, and I know I had fun reading this installment in the series.	
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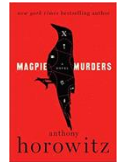
Magpie Murders

Horowitz,  
Anthony

\*\*\*\*

10/9/17

**Homage.** Fans of classic English crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy reading Anthony Horowitz' novel titled, Magpie Murders. This fun read is structured as a book within a book, and in many ways, it is a homage to Agatha Christie and her contemporaries as well as to the English people and to their special interest in murder mysteries. Horowitz is clever and witty and respects the intelligence of the reader.



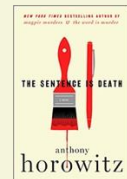
The Sentence is Death

Horowitz,  
Anthony

\*\*\*\*

6/18/19

**Hawthorne.** Anthony Horowitz reprises protagonist Daniel Hawthorne for a second mystery novel titled, The Sentence is Death. As the character Anthony Horowitz in this novel is writing about private eye Daniel Hawthorne, they are investigating the murder of a divorce lawyer in which the weapon was a pricey bottle of French wine. Horowitz gives readers an entertaining cast of interesting characters, a clever mystery, and just enough plot twists to keep a reader's attention.



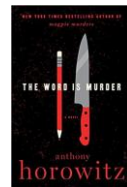
The Word Is Murder

Horowitz,  
Anthony

\*\*\*\*

7/12/18

**Clever.** Fans of mystery novels will love Anthony Horowitz' novel titled, The Word Is Murder. Characters are finely drawn, the plot is engaging, and the misdirection is clever. A quirky former police detective, Daniel Hawthorne, wants a writer to document a true crime case and showcase Hawthorne's skills at detection. Hawthorne uses clever methods to convince a writer named Anthony Horowitz who is busy with other books to take on the job. The story moves fast, the relationship between Daniel and Anthony is interesting, and the mystery was very satisfying.



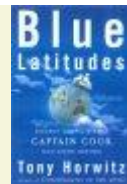
Blue Latitudes: Boldly Going Where Captain Cook Has Gone Before

Horwitz, Tony

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May 03

**South Pacific Overtures.** Nothing we've read in years is quite like this odd book. Author and cohorts roam around to places where Cook went and compare what those places are like now to what they were like in Cook's time.



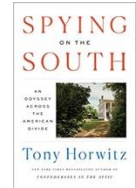
Spying on the South: An Odyssey Across the American Divide

Horwitz, Tony

\*\*\*\*

6/18/19

**Olmstead.** Renowned American landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead spent over a year traveling through the South before the Civil War and wrote about his observations for a New York newspaper. In his book titled, Spying on the South: An Odyssey Across the American Divide, Tony Horwitz followed Olmstead's route, connecting divisions from the past with current polarization. People and places, past and present, come alive in this book, thanks to Horwitz' fine writing.



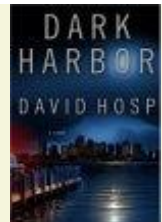
Dark Harbor

Hosp, David

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Mar 06

**Overwhelmed.** Debut novel set in Boston with a few fine characters, good plot momentum, some caricatures, and thrilling suspense.



A Thousand Splendid Sons

Hosseini, Khaled

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Aug 07

**Resilience.** Powerful story of recent decades of the life of two women in Afghanistan, both of whom are abused and loved, and who struggle to survive.



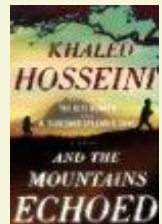
And the Mountains Echoed




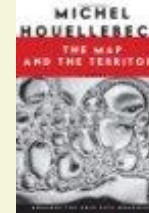
Hosseini, Khaled

\*\*\*\*\*

6/6/13

**Generations.** Khaled Hosseini's novel, And the Mountains Echoed, contains just about everything I like in a novel. There's a big cast of recognizable, complex characters, who experience the broad range of life: love, heartbreak, hope, loss, success, failure, caring and hurting. Across decades and generations, Hosseini uses multiple narrators in alternating time periods to weave a family story. These characters make choices that we all recognize: we don't control what will happen, but we try to take the next step that we think is the best thing to do. The prose is well-crafted, and I finished the novel with a great satisfaction that Hosseini presented our human condition with empathy,



				wisdom and skill. Any reader who enjoys the messiness of family stories and the consequences of life's choices, will find much to enjoy in this finely written novel.	
<a href="#">Sea Prayer</a>	Hosseini, Khaled	*****	<a href="#">10/17/18</a>	<p><b>Refugees.</b> It took me all of five minutes to read the illustrated book by Khaled Hosseini titled, <a href="#">Sea Prayer</a>. This book is a meditation, a prayer as the title shows, for the Syrian refugees on their perilous journey away from danger, death and destruction. The words are moving, and the illustrations beautiful. Proceeds from the sale of this book are being donated to organizations helping refugees. So, buy a copy. Spend five minutes, at least, thinking about refugees, and pass the book along to someone else. Then, send a larger donation to help refugees.</p>	
<a href="#">The Kite Runner</a>	Hosseini, Khaled	***	<a href="#">May 05</a>	<p><b>Soars.</b> Superb debut novel of transformations, personal and political, among Afghans. Complex characters, vivid descriptions, loss and redemption.</p>	
<a href="#">Submission</a>	Houellebecq, Michel	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
The Map and the Territory	Houellebecq, Michel	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	

The Possibility  
of an Island

Houellebecq,  
Michel

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Read, but not reviewed.

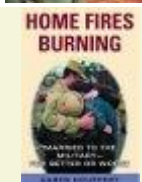


Home Fires  
Burning

Houppert, Karen

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



The Rule of  
Nobody: Saving  
America from  
Dead Laws and  
Broken  
Government

Howard, Philip  
K.

\*\*\*\*\*

9/15/14

**Rebuild.** When it comes to public policy, have we become so polarized by ideology that there's no room left for common sense? Philip K. Howard's new book, The Rule of Nobody: Saving America from Dead Laws and Broken Government, uses punchy prose and a clear point of view to explore our current situation and what could be done to rebuild our system of government. Any reader interested in public policy should consider reading this book, especially if you are frustrated by our current state of politics.



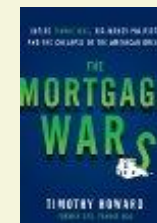
The Mortgage  
Wars: Inside  
Fannie Mae,  
Big-Money  
Politics, and the  
Collapse of the  
American  
Dream

Howard,  
Timothy

\*\*\*\*\*

1/21/14

**Perspective.** History is usually written by the winners, and over the past decade it appears that both Fannie Mae and former CFO Timothy Howard were beaten and bruised from a series of events. In his book, The Mortgage Wars: Inside Fannie Mae, Big-Money Politics, and the Collapse of the American Dream, Howard describes the ways in which ideologues who wanted to constrain Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac used politics, media and dirty warfare to change the mortgage business. Howard's voice was muted by ongoing litigation over the course of many years, and after he was vindicated of wrongdoing, he decided to present this book which tells a side of the story readers have not seen until now. Howard has written a plain speaking and





straightforward presentation of his insider perspective about what happened to damage the housing finance system in the United States. By way of disclaimer, I was a Freddie Mac executive from 1976 through 1998, and came to this book with a viewpoint and perspective of my own. After reading this book, I concluded that it's about time this other part of the story got told. For any reader willing to revisit events leading up to and during the financial crisis, this book fills in the gaps from previous accounts and offers an insider's knowledge that goes deeper than most other books. Readers interested in public policy will find this book fascinating, and anyone involved in the mortgage business should consider this book required reading.

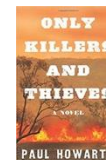
Only Killers and Thieves

Howarth, Paul

\*\*\*\*

12/20/19

**Survival.** Paul Howarth's debut novel, Only Killers and Thieves, takes readers into frontier life in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Australia. Teenagers Tommy and Billy McBride are forced to grow up quickly when violence and tragedy enters their young lives. Life in an unforgiving landscape is an ongoing battle for survival, and the boys choose to follow different paths in life. Howarth writes with great skill, bringing the setting to life and developing each character with insight into the complexity of human nature and the bonds of relationships.



Concordance

Howe, Susan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



Great Risks Had to be Taken: The Jesuit Response to the Second





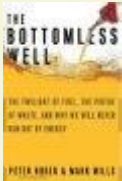
Howell, Patrick J.

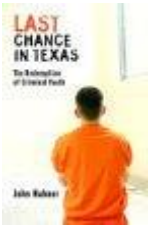


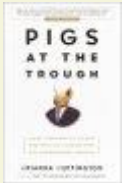
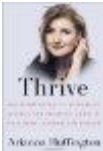
Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

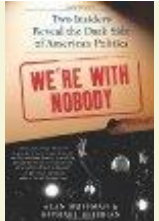


Vatican Council,  
1958–2018

Reporting Iraq: An Oral History of the War by the Journalists Who Covered It	Hoyt, Michael and John Palettella	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Delivering Happiness: A Path to Profits, Passion, and Purpose	Hsieh, Tony	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
Brothers	Hua, Yu	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009. I was somewhat interested through page 77, but looking at how many more pages were ahead, I gave up, concluding I wasn't interested to that extent.	
<u>MBS: The Rise to Power of Mohammed bin Salman</u>	Hubbard, Ben	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
The Bottomless Well: The Twilight of Fuel, The Virtue of Waste, and Why We Will Never Run Out of Energy	Huber, Peter W. and Mark P. Mills	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	

Last Chance in Texas	Hubner, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
The Monster: How a Gang of Predatory Lenders and Wall Street Bankers Fleeced America--and Spawned a Global Crisis	Hudson, Michael W.	Unread		After stumbling over factual errors in his narrative, I stopped at page 28, uncertain about where else Hudson would be sloppy. I wasn't interested enough in Roland Arnall to plow through all the rest of this book which seemed to rely on earlier and better accounts of the financial crisis. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	
Fanatics and Fools: The Game Plan for Winning Back America	Huffington, Arianna	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<u>Pigs at the Trough: How Corporate Greed and Political Corruption Are Undermining America</u>	Huffington, Arianna	***	<u>Apr 03</u>	Sharply Pointed. Witty, sometimes tiresome, cleverly written smorgasbord of corporate scandals and proposals for reform. Enjoy her irreverent writing style and pointed judgments.	
<u>Thrive: The Third Metric to Redefining Success and Creating a Life of Well-Being, Wisdom, and Wonder</u>	Huffington, Arianna	***	<u>8/8/14</u>	<b>Quotes.</b> One luxury that can come from being very successful is to redefine what success should mean for others. Arianna Huffington strings together dozens of practical pieces of advices and quotes from others in a book titled, <u>Thrive: The Third Metric to Redefining Success and Creating a Life of Well-Being, Wisdom, and Wonder</u> . For those readers who enjoy celebrity self-help books, this is the book for you. She suggests that we all get a good	

night's sleep. Start the day with meditation. Unplug more often from electronic devices. If this is the kind of help you're looking to find out from a book, consider reading this one. I read it quickly and agreed with her often, but I wondered about the audience for a book such as this one.

We're with Nobody: Two Insiders Reveal the Dark Side of American Politics	Huffman, Alan and Michael Rejebian	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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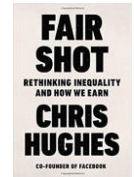
[Fair Shot: Rethinking Inequality and How We Earn](#)

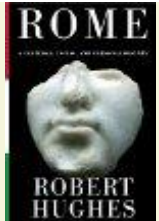
Hughes, Chris

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[5/15/20](#)

**Pitch.** Facebook co-founded Chris Hughes pitches his recommendation for a guaranteed basic income for all Americans in his book titled, [Fair Shot: Rethinking Inequality and How We Earn](#). In the context of the current high unemployment rate thanks to the efforts to reduce deaths from covid-19, the notion of a safety net in the form of guaranteed income will appeal to many individuals. The form Hughes describes might not be the best solution, but it is well worth taking into account as we explore alternatives to providing a baseline level of support through good times and bad.



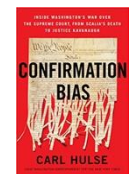
Rome: A Cultural, Visual, and Personal History	Hughes, Robert	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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[Confirmation Bias: Inside Washington's War Over the Supreme Court, from Scalia's](#)

Hulse, Carl


Unread

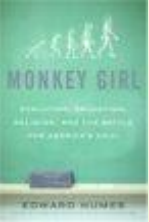


Shelf of Ennui 2020.



Death to Justice  
Kavanaugh

<u>The Adults</u>	Hulse, Caroline	*****	<u>11/9/19</u>	<p><b>Foibles.</b> Parts of my funny bones were tickled in just the right ways by Caroline Hulse's debut novel titled, <u>The Adults</u>. Matt and Claire are the divorced parents of seven-year-old Scarlett, and they decide that the best Christmas holiday for Scarlett would be to spend it with both her parents and their current partners, Alex with Matt and Patrick with Claire, at a resort called Happy Forest. What could possibly go wrong when the exes come together with their significant others? They are all adults. One thing happens early in the novel: someone is shot with an arrow. That's not in the Christmas spirit. The sixth member of the holiday party is Scarlett's invisible big purple rabbit, Posey, whose opinions fill Scarlett's head. The foibles of these individuals bring the characters to life, but their predicament can often seem slapstick. Readers looking for some humorous distraction should consider reading this novel.</p>	
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<u>Black River</u>	Hulse, S.M.	*****	<u>2/23/15</u>	<p><b>Redemption.</b> S.M. Hulse did so many things so well in her novel titled, <u>Black River</u>, that I am blown away that this is a debut novel. Protagonist Wes Carver is a complex character and Hulse presents him with all the appropriate contradictions and consistencies. The Montana setting is presented with descriptive, often lyrical, prose. The relationships are often tense and Hulse gives just enough of the backstory to explain the dynamics. Finally, she offers a story about forgiveness and redemption that will touch many readers deeply. And she accomplishes all this in fewer than 250 pages. Readers who enjoy fiction with well-developed complex characters are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	
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Monkey Girl	Humes, Edward	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<a href="#">Superdove: How the Pigeon Took Manhattan ... And the World</a>	Humphries, Courtney	***	<a href="#">Dec 08</a>	<b>Adaptation.</b> Vote for change? No species has changed more successfully than pigeons. Humphries loves her subject and writes well about how pigeons have adapted to urban life.	
<a href="#">Hannibal</a>	Hunt, Patrick	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<a href="#">Mr. Splitfoot</a>	Hunt, Samantha	***	<a href="#">10/13/17</a>	<b>Dead.</b> Lots of elements in Samantha Hunt's novel titled, <a href="#">Mr. Splitfoot</a> , will appeal to readers: orphans, a journey, talking to the dead, religious cults, and two alternating plot lines, one past and one present. Ruth is the protagonist of the historical line, and her niece, Cora, takes the lead in the current plot line. The two lines converge in interesting ways that will delight many readers. Hunt develops characters well, and her prose is finely written. If you like creepy books, consider reading this one.	
<a href="#">The Dark Dark</a>	Hunt, Samantha	****	<a href="#">1/28/18</a>	<b>Imaginative.</b> Every story by Samantha Hunt in her collection titled, <a href="#">The Dark Dark</a> , contains finely written prose structured into well-told stories. Sometimes funny, other times scary, there's always a twist or a stretch of imagination at play. In some stories, it seemed like the shadows had shadows as Hunt built complexity into this efficient form. Any reader comfortable with some weird stuff will enjoy the stories in this finely written collection.	



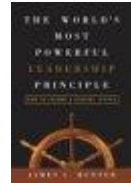
The world's most powerful leadership principle : how to become a servant leader

Hunter, James C.

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Nov 04

**Preachy.** Hunter tries to persuade readers to embrace the servant model of leadership by using preachy persuasion rather than facts. Sounds good, but not convincing.



Hellbent

Hurwitz, Gregg

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2/22/18

**Greenlight.** The third Orphan X novel by Gregg Hurwitz is titled, Hellbent. Any reader who has not read the earlier novels in this series will lose a lot by starting with this installment. For fans of the series, this third novel moves the action forward violently and expertly, while filling in more of protagonist Evan Smoak's backstory. A new and interesting character joins the story. There's a big revelation of who has given the greenlight to eliminate Orphan X, and a setup toward the next installment.



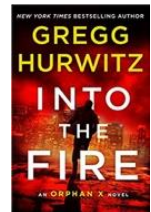
Into the Fire

Hurwitz, Gregg

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3/13/20

**Transition.** The fifth thrilling Orphan X novel by Gregg Hurwitz is titled, Into the Fire. This time out, every time Nowhere Man Evan Smoak thinks he gets the job done, he ends up back in the dangerous fray or the place described in the title. Protagonist Smoak continues to develop in complexity as the series progresses, and in this novel, there seems to be a longing in him to make a transition from his current life to something else. We will have to wait for the next installment to find out what happens. In the meantime, thriller fans will enjoy reading this novel.



Last Chance

Hurwitz, Gregg

\*\*\*\*

3/3/18

**Purpose.** The second exciting novel in the Rains Brothers series by Gregg Hurwitz is titled, Last Chance. An alien invasion set off the plot in the first novel and in the current book, brothers Chance and Patrick Rains find out their purpose in life as well as why they were immune from the alien virus from an alien good guy: (p.149) "You and your brother's purpose is to die." No plot spoiler here: the



				<p>excitement continues for those readers who love creepy and imaginative fiction.</p> <p><b>Weapon.</b> Readers who love thrillers have a new protagonist to enjoy, Evan Smoak, introduced by Gregg Hurwitz in a novel titled, <a href="#">Orphan X</a>. This first novel in a planned series lays a solid foundation with Evan's backstory and presents non-stop thrilling action from beginning to end. Evan is Orphan X and also The Nowhere Man (the second novel in the series). As an adolescent orphan, Evan was trained to become a weapon: a government assassin with all the skills to complete assignments successfully and avoid detection. The Orphan Project, of which he was a part, trained others to serve the same purpose. Events cause Evan to go off the grid, and in this novel, his past catches up with him. I was entertained from beginning to end, and I look forward to reading the next installment.</p>	
<a href="#">Orphan X</a>	Hurwitz, Gregg	*****	<a href="#">8/19/16</a>		
<a href="#">Out of the Dark</a>	Hurwitz, Gregg	*****	<a href="#">7/3/19</a>		
<a href="#">The Nowhere Man</a>	Hurwitz, Gregg	*****	<a href="#">3/2/17</a>	<p><b>Ordeal.</b> The second novel by Gregg Hurwitz to feature Evan Smoak is titled, <a href="#">The Nowhere Man</a>. Smoke is also known as Orphan X, the title of the first novel in this series. I found the pace of this novel to be much slower than the earlier one. Smoak spends a long time in confinement with slow exposition followed by fast-pacing of a quick</p>	

resolution to his ordeal. While this novel stands on its own, readers will have a more complete view of this interesting protagonist if one reads the novels in sequence. I was entertained well enough by this installment, and look forward to another in the series.

**Invasion.** I couldn't let the year end without reading at least one zombie novel. I think I chose wisely in selecting Gregg Hurwitz' book titled, The Rains. Aliens hitchhike on asteroids, land on earth, implant themselves in human shells and begin to invade and occupy Earth and all its inhabitants. A remnant of children survives and Hurwitz develops the plot using their survival as momentum. What's not to like? For those squeamish readers when it comes to violence and gore, there may be too many pages packed with description meant to forestall any semblance of comfortable sleep at night. For readers who like this genre that it targeted to young readers, there's some good writing to enjoy in this novel and an exciting story that is just getting started.

The Rains

Hurwitz, Gregg

\*\*\*\*

12/15/16



The Mystic Arts  
of Erasing All  
Signs of Death

Huston, Charlie

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009

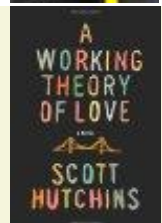


A Working  
Theory of Love

Hutchins, Scott

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



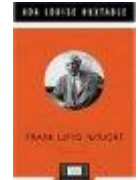
Frank Lloyd Wright

Huxtable, Ada Louise

\*\*\*

June 05

**Survivor.** Finely written, balanced biography of the person and the artist, who survived personal and professional losses and convinced others to bend to his stubborn will because he always knew what was right.



Go Ask Fannie

Hyde, Elizabeth

\*\*\*\*\*

3/26/19

**Secrets.** Each of us is an observer and participant in family dynamics. Sometimes fiction can help us observe family relationships in other people whose nature is just as human as ours and can lead to insight. In her novel titled, Go Ask Fannie, Elizabeth Hyde presents us with a dad, 81-year-old Murray Blaire, and his adult children, Ruth, George and Lizzie gathered together on Murray's farm for a weekend. Gradually, we learn about two other Blaires: a wife and mom, Lillian, and a son and brother, Daniel. Family secrets are at the core of this novel, and the power of the past to be ever-present. Readers looking for a little distance from one's own family dynamics can spend a few enjoyable hours with the Blaire family and all of their dysfunction.

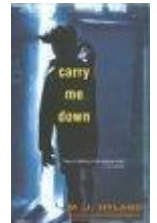


Carry Me Down

Hyland, M.J.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



Until It Hurts:  
America's  
Obsession with  
Youth Sports  
and How It  
Harms Our Kids

Hyman, Mark

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009. I got the point of the book quickly, and had enough by page 79.



The reluctant metrosexual : dispatches from an almost hip life

Hyman, Peter

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004

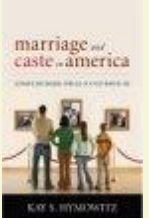


Marriage and Caste in America

Hymowitz, Kay S.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



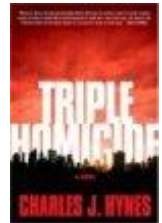
Triple Homicide

Hynes, Charles

\*

Feb 08

**Annoying.** Debut crime novel by Brooklyn district attorney reads like it was written by a D.A. Murders, police corruption, lots of description, weak dialogue and tedious exposition.



Next

Hynes, James

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2011



The Growing Seasons: An American Boyhood Before the War

Hynes, Samuel

\*\*\*

May 03

Ebullient. Vivid images of one man's formative years during the Depression, and the wisdom he's able to convey today about those times. Upbeat memoir with the right balance of mischief and struggle.



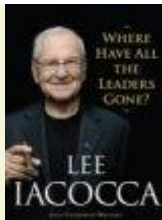
Where Have All the Leaders Gone?

Iacocca, Lee

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July 07

**Blunt.** Emotional, blunt and inspiring critique of the absence of leadership on key issues, and an optimistic view of the road ahead.



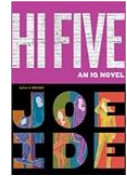
Hi Five

Ide, Joe

\*\*\*\*\*

3/13/20

**Multiple.** Private Investigator Isaiah Quintabe is back for the fourth installment in the IQ series by Joe Ide, a novel titled, Hi Five. A murder suspect named Christiana challenges IQ to prove her innocence. An obstacle for IQ is that because she has multiple personalities, no one of whom saw everything that happened on the night of the murder. Fans of crime fiction and this series will enjoy the complexity of this novel and the skills of the detective whose life becomes more complicated with every installment.



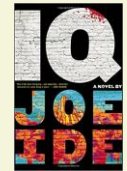
IQ

Ide, Joe

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11/3/17

**Character.** I am a sucker for character-driven crime fiction. A new series by Joe Ide begins with a title, IQ, named for the protagonist, Isaiah Quintabe. Isaiah is a smart guy with a big heart. Ide introduces Isaiah in two time segments in this novel: when he dropped out of high school in 2005 and in 2013 where he and his sidekick, Dodson, are caught up in an exciting and lucrative case. Set in Southern California and rooted in South Central, the crimes and action are presented vividly and by the end of the novel, I knew I was hooked on another crime fiction series, thanks to the interesting central character, Isaiah Quintabe.



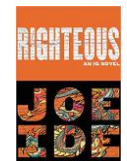
Righteous

Ide, Joe

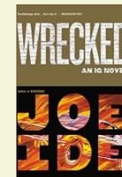

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1/4/18

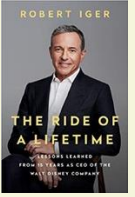
**Progress.** The second novel by Joe Ide to feature private investigator Isaiah Quintabe is titled, Righteous. As expected, there's progress in IQ's personal and professional life and an interesting case that leads IQ and Dodson from East Long Beach to Las Vegas. The gangsters are well developed in this installment, and fans of Ide's debut novel are those readers most likely to enjoy this installment as we look forward to the next.

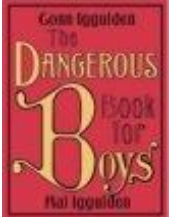


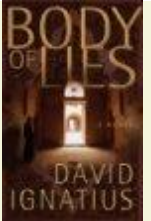


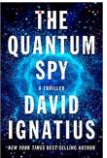
<a href="#"><u>Wrecked</u></a>	Ide, Joe	****	<a href="#"><u>4/19/19</u></a>	<p><b>Threats.</b> The third installment in Joe Ide's IQ series is a novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Wrecked</u></a>. This time out, Isaiah Quintabe, IQ, seems more established in his private investigator business. That feeling of comfort leaves quickly as IQ gets in trouble, and finds himself in the crosshairs of the man who killed his brother, Marcus. IQ isn't working alone and has found a new love interest. Readers who enjoy well-written character-based crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Always Look on the Bright Side of Life: A Sortabiography</u></a>	Idle, Eric	****	<a href="#"><u>6/10/20</u></a>	<p><b>Smiles.</b> Most readers will be entertained by the great stories and jokes in Eric Idle's book titled, <a href="#"><u>Always Look on the Bright Side of Life: A Sortabiography</u></a>. You'll smile a lot (Smilealot?) by the hilarious memories that Idle offers in this book and be amazed at the charmed life he's led. He's rubbed shoulders with lots of interesting people, and he gives a funny inside look at lots of them in this book. Just thinking about what I read about Spamalot brings a smile to my face as I write this. Any reader who needs a good laugh should consider reading this memoir.</p>	
The Greedy Bastard Diary: A Comic Tour of America	Idle, Eric	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<a href="#"><u>The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama</u></a>	Ifill, Gwen	***	<a href="#"><u>3/28/09</u></a>	<p><b>Profiles.</b> Gwen Ifill's new book, <a href="#"><u>The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama</u></a>, presents readers with an extensive cast of characters across multiple generations. As a result of lots of interviews, Ifill is able to assemble the outlook, perspective and experience of both well-known and lesser-known individuals. Ifill excels at allowing the voices of the individuals she interviews express themselves. Despite an overall structure in</p>	

The Breakthrough, there isn't a great deal of analysis. Consider this for what it is: a journalist using her skills at interviewing to assemble a book that provides readers with the insights of many individuals. A bonus for me was reading about individuals who are up and coming in the political world, and gaining some understanding of what race may mean for the next generation of politicians and voters.



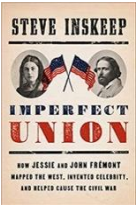
<u>The Ride of a Lifetime: Lessons Learned from 15 Years as CEO of the Walt Disney Company</u>	Iger, Robert	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
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<u>The Dangerous Book for Boys</u>	Iggulden, Conn and Hal Iggulden	***	<u>Sep 07</u>	<b>Reference.</b> Great book for fathers and sons to let boys take risks and grow up. Includes loads of how-to's, heroic stories, illustrations, and even grammar lessons.	
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Body of Lies	Ignatius, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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<u>The Quantum Spy</u>	Ignatius, David	*****	<u>1/4/18</u>	<b>Ambiguity.</b> A new novel titled, <u>The Quantum Spy</u> , by <i>Washington Post</i> journalist David Ignatius offers fans of espionage novels great reading pleasure. Both China and the United States are funding research into superfast computers that will break any code quickly. The US program has a mole and the CIA is investigating that problem while playing a multilayered game with the Chinese. Like	
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the best spy novels, this one contains high doses of ambiguity and uncertainty, focused on what loyalty means and the fluidity of truth in the world of espionage.

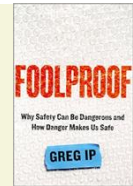
<a href="#"><u>The Captives</u></a>	Immergut, Debra Jo	****	<a href="#"><u>8/27/18</u></a>	<p><b>Choices.</b> Debra Jo Immergut's debut novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Captives</u></a>, is set mostly in a prison, and presents a story from the perspective of two troubled protagonists who continue to make poor choices. Frank Lundquist is a psychologist who lost his private practice and now works in a prison. When his high school crush, inmate Miranda Greene, arrives in his office, Frank knows what professional behavior requires. Immergut informs readers of that in chapter headings and excerpts from professional rules. Frank makes other choices. In her own way, Miranda also makes sub-optimal choices. Both characters are captive and are looking for freedom from their circumstances. I'm a bit tired of spending time with disturbing characters, but this novel is well-written, and I was entertained.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>A Nice Cup of Tea</u></a>	Imrie, Celia	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<a href="#"><u>Captain Saturday</u></a>	Inman, Robert	**	<a href="#"><u>Apr 02</u></a>	Raleigh TV weatherman loses his job, leading to an unraveling and rebuilding of his life. A not very well-written novel of a New South midlife crisis.	
<a href="#"><u>Imperfect Union: How Jessie and John Frémont Mapped the West, Invented</u></a>	Inskeep, Steve	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	

Celebrity, and Helped Cause the Civil War  
Foolproof: Why Safety Can Be Dangerous and How Danger Makes Us Safe

Ip. Greg

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



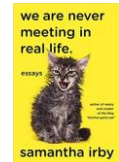
We Are Never Meeting in Real Life

Irby, Samantha

\*\*\*\*

10/26/17

**Dedication.** I readily confess that I always read the dedications and acknowledgements of books I finish. Samantha Irby grabbed my attention with the dedication for her essay collection titled, We Are Never Meeting in Real Life. She dedicated the book to klonopin, a brand name for the anxiety medication clonazepam. I was alert to expect to read a distinct and likely funny voice in these 21 essays, and I was not disappointed. Irby simultaneously led me to laugh, and to realize that she was conveying some profound truth. I loved her direct style of writing and how could you not be drawn to the cover of this book? That's before meeting Irby's cat, Helen Keller. It only gets better after the cover and the dedication.



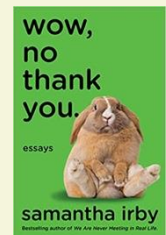
Wow, No Thank You

Irby, Samantha

\*\*\*\*

4/23/20

**Deadpan.** I could not drink any beverage while reading Samantha Irby's book titled, Wow, No Thank You. Liquid in my mouth was prone to gush out as I was compelled to laugh with gusto at an image, word or finely turned phrase in this funny book. Whenever she describes her awkwardness in a social situation, readers can be confident that she will mine that feeling for all the possible humor that could be present. When she starts a riff, you're never sure when you will laugh out loud, but chances are high that you will. Readers with a funny bone that could use a good tickle are those most likely to enjoy the fine and funny writing in this book.

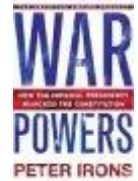


War Powers

Irons, Peter

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



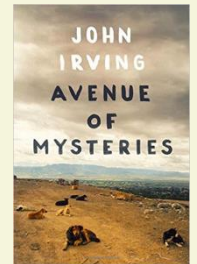
[Avenue of Mysteries](#)

Irving, John

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[11/20/15](#)

**Faith.** If you've ever thought about the phrase, "the miracle of life," you can think about it for over 450 pages in John Irving's fourteenth and latest novel titled, [Avenue of Mysteries](#). Irving presents the life of protagonist Juan Diego by shifting back to the past through dreams and recollections, and in the present through the structure of a journey to fulfill a promise. Juan Diego's life has been filled with mysteries and miracles, and with love from some unlikely or unexpected sources. One reading of this novel filled me with thoughts about the themes Irving explores including aging, fate, the Catholic church, faith, love and perseverance. If I chose a second reading, I'm sure I would find more themes to think about. Irving can be funny, the characters are often quirky and reality can seem to slip away at times. I've read all of Irving's novels over the past four decades, and I admit to a positive bias toward this novel before I opened the first page. Readers who enjoy fine writing are those most likely to enjoy this novel.



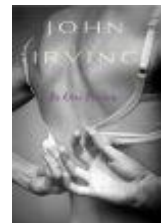
[In One Person](#)

Irving, John

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[1/16/13](#)

**Mutable.** John Irving writes with eloquence about desire and sexual identity in his novel, [In One Person](#). Protagonist Billy Abbott is a likeable and entertaining narrator as Irving guides readers through five decades of Billy's life on the 400+ pages of this novel. While many characters are presented or revealed with a label: bisexual, transgender, homosexual, cross-dresser; they are not defined or limited by those labels. Their sexual desires matter, but they are not the sum of those desires. Irving presents episodes of tolerance and



intolerance, of understanding and disappointment, as he allows readers to become involved with characters most of us might not meet in our everyday lives. Irving displays a range of human behavior while reinforcing the bonds of what we share in common. If the subject of mutable sexual identity makes you too uncomfortable, this is probably a novel you may not enjoy. Any reader who appreciates fine writing and who is open to spending time with characters that may be unfamiliar is likely to enjoy this finely written novel.

[Last Night in Twisted River](#)

Irving, John

\*\*\*\*

[12/10/09](#)

**Loss.** I didn't appreciate how much I missed reading a John Irving novel until I plunged into his latest, [Last Night in Twisted River](#). Sweeping back and forth across northeastern landscapes and decades in time, a multi-generational cast of characters deal with loss and extend the reach of love across the miles and years. In a delightfully quirky way, part of the voice of the novel is a writer constructing the way to best tell the story, ending up with the first sentence. What Irving does so well is construct: he writes careful, beautiful sentences; he builds a character level by level until a reader feels the depth; and he delights and surprises us with the way the plot unfolds. Irving is one of the finest architects of finely written, accessible fiction. [Last Night in Twisted River](#) is a worthy addition to a formidable oeuvre. Any reader looking for hours of reading pleasure that will immerse you into the lives of interesting people will likely enjoy [Last Night in Twisted River](#).





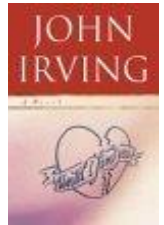
Until I Find You

Irving, John

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Sep 05

**Longing.** 850 well-written pages by a master of the long form of prose, reveals a three decade journey by protagonist Jack Burns, who searches for his father, his identity, and the truth. Unusual characters and situations with universal emotions and complex relationships.



Flat Water Tuesday

Irwin, Ron

\*\*\*\*

6/6/13

**Crew.** Certain events transform lives. Novelists can present that transformation with skill or in a clumsy way. In his debut novel, Flat Water Tuesday, Ron Irwin uses great skill to present an engaging story that had me hooked from beginning to end. Set primarily in two time periods, the second senior high school year of protagonist Rob Carrey, and fifteen years later, the action in the novel involves the sport of crew, and the discipline and teamwork required to succeed. Working-class Rob was recruited to a prestigious prep school because of his strong performance rowing a skull. His life became transformed by what happened during that year. Irwin presents a fine cast of well-developed complex characters, especially two strong women in Rob's life. The glitches one expects in a debut novel are present, but I was not distracted by them because the power of the story propelled me to remain engaged. Readers who like coming of age novels and are willing to take a chance on a first time novelist should consider reading this book.



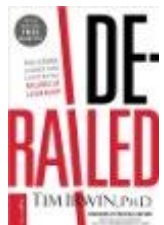
Derailed: Five Lessons Learned from Catastrophic Failures of Leadership

Irwin, Tim

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3/12/10

**Character.** I decided to read Tim Irwin's Derailed: Five Lessons Learned from Catastrophic Failures of Leadership to obtain a dose of schadenfreude. While there was some of that available on these pages, Derailed offers a study in character, and allows readers a great opportunity to reflect on one's own character to examine where one's strength and weaknesses can lead to successes and failures. Irwin focuses on character flaws in six

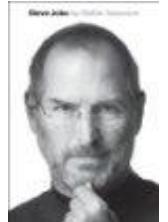



highly competent executives: Robert Nardelli, Carly Fiorina, Durk Jager, Stephen Heyer, Frank Raines, and Dick Fuld, and makes a case that it was a flaw in character that led each person to behave in ways that led to derailment. As executives take on broader roles, there can be a decline in self-awareness and candid feedback that can allow unchecked character traits to diminish effectiveness and possibly lead to personal or organization failure. Leaders at any level in an organization will find some insight on these pages and those readers who enjoy putting oneself in another's shoes will find pleasure on these pages. You're likely to finish the book ready to take a look at your own character in a fresh way.

<a href="#"><u>Past Perfect</u></a>	Isaacs, Susan	***	<a href="#"><u>May 07</u></a>	<b>Justice.</b> Novel provides entertaining and light reading with a protagonist obsessed with unraveling a mystery that haunts her: why was she fired from the CIA more than a dozen years ago?	
<a href="#"><u>Einstein</u></a>	Isaacson, Walter	***	<a href="#"><u>Oct 07</u></a>	<b>Impertinence.</b> Extensive biography using new sources reveals much about the famous scientist, especially the ways in which his impertinence and nonconformity led to his greatest breakthroughs.	
<a href="#"><u>Leonardo da Vinci</u></a>	Isaacson, Walter	*****	<a href="#"><u>11/21/17</u></a>	<b>Curiosity.</b> I wonder if the successful bidder of \$450 million for the Leonardo painting titled, <i>Salvator Mundi</i> , read Walter Isaacson's book titled, <a href="#"><u>Leonardo da Vinci</u></a> , prior to making an offer on the artwork. I also wonder what Leonardo would have thought of the selling price. Perhaps my curiosity was stimulated by this finely written book in which Isaacson explores Leonardo's life and work. The artist took great joy in distractions, never flagged in	

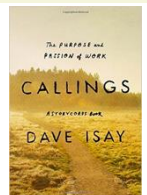
			his curiosity, let things marinate for years, and did not finish a lot of what he started. A close observer of many things, Leonardo spent his whole life in continuous improvement. The words and images in this book brought me great pleasure and more questions.	
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Steve Jobs	Isaacson, Walter	Unread	I skimmed parts of this biography, but never got engaged enough to read from cover to cover. Shelf of Ennui 2012.
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<u>The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution</u>	Isaacson, Walter	*****	<u>1/23/15</u> <b>Collaborative.</b> I had an odd thought after I finished reading Walter Isaacson's fine book titled, <u>The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution</u> . I wondered how much Isaacson's point of view was influenced by Elizabeth Warren's frequent speeches on "you didn't build that." It seemed to me that a theme throughout this expansive inventory of the earliest days of computers to the present focuses on the ways in which contemporaries and predecessors collaborated. Each advancement proceeded because of the work done by others. Readers interested in technology or innovation will find a lot to enjoy from this finely written book.	
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<u>Callings: The Purpose and Passion of Work</u>	Isay, Dave	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2016.
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<a href="#"><u>Flophouse: Life on the Bowery</u></a>	Isay, David	***		Captivating stories and gripping photos. Take a look.	
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Fallen Founder    Isenberg, Nancy    Unread    Shelf of Ennui 2007



<a href="#"><u>Never Let Me Go</u></a>	Ishiguro, Kazuo	*****	<a href="#"><u>July 05</u></a>	<p><b>Purpose.</b> Novel set in 1990s describes a society in which clones are created for organ harvesting. Well-written exploration of discovering purpose in life during a time of restrictions on personal freedom when science outran ethics.</p>	
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[The Buried Giant](#)    Ishiguro, Kazuo    \*\*\*\*\*    [4/24/15](#)

**Mist.** I had to catch myself while reading Kazuo Ishiguro's novel, [The Buried Giant](#). I would keep pausing to ask myself what he was getting at, and what was really going on. Once I surrendered myself to his prose, I found I enjoyed this novel immensely. After finishing it, I am asking myself many reflective questions. Where have we really come from? Have we forgotten what made us who we are? Has a mist clouded over our eyes so that we don't see our world as it really is? Along with these characters, what is the nature of our journey? Can we count on memory? If reading a finely written literary novel that leads you to these questions and others sounds like something you'd like, by all means surrender yourself to this novel. I'm glad I did.



<a href="#"><u>The Remains of the Day</u></a>	Ishiguro, Kazuo	***	<a href="#"><u>10/00</u></a>	Better than <a href="#"><u>When We Were Orphans</u></a> .	
<a href="#"><u>When We Were Orphans</u></a>	Ishiguro, Kazuo	DNR	<a href="#"><u>10/00</u></a>	Didn't meet our high expectations based on <a href="#"><u>Remains of the Day</u></a> . Take a pass and wait for his next book.	
<a href="#"><u>Big Guns</u></a>	Israel, Steve	****	<a href="#"><u>7/24/18</u></a>	<b>Sunshine.</b> I hope former Congressman Steve Israel had fun writing his novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Big Guns</u></a> , because I sure had fun reading it. Political humor can be tricky, especially during a time period when something that sounds crazy one day becomes policy the next. Israel nails it in this novel. In response to a campaign to ban handguns, the CEO of a gun maker and his lobbyist convince a member of Congress to introduce legislation to mandate that every American must own a firearm. The lobbyist, Sunny (Sunshine) McCarthy, is the daughter of the mayor of a town where the CEO has a home. Her mom the mayor passes an ordinance banning guns in that town and the CEO sets forces in motion to retaliate. Any reader looking for some funny fiction should consider this novel.	
<a href="#"><u>Who Let the Dogs In?</u></a>	Ivins, Molly	***	<a href="#"><u>Jan 05</u></a>	<b>Sharp.</b> Collection of twenty years of witty, sharp, liberal, biting columns, especially about Texas, politicians and the Bushes. Will cheer liberals and raise blood pressure of supporters of those she skewers.	

<a href="#"><u>Bushwacked: Life in George W. Bush's America</u></a>	Ivins, Molly and Lou Dubose	***	<a href="#"><u>Mar 04</u></a>	<p><b>Eloquent.</b> Journalist authors know how to turn a phrase, and present facts and stories with venom and wit, leaving little room for those willing to gloss over the details. Bush-bashers will find plenty to enjoy, and Bush supporters won't pay attention to this book.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Speak No Evil</u></a>	Iweala, Uzodinma	*****	<a href="#"><u>4/16/18</u></a>	<p><b>Silence.</b> Be prepared to receive an emotional wallop while reading Uzodinma Iweala's finely written novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Speak No Evil</u></a>. One could say this is a novel about a family that could be any family. There is love, similarities, differences. Then, there is cruelty, violence, tragedy. One could describe this novel as a gay coming of age story. None of those descriptions matter because of what this novel is: a finely written story that will engage every reader. The characters in this novel are drawn well and are developed with complexity and care as we understand them better every time the plot moves forward. The finely written prose drew me in to the story from the opening, and some sentences increased my heartrate or perhaps the prose served as a kind of pacemaker. If a consequence of speaking no evil involves silence, that may be an outcome that turns out to be unbearable.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Art of Stillness: Adventures in Going Nowhere</u></a>	Iyer, Pico	****	<a href="#"><u>3/13/15</u></a>	<p><b>Ted.</b> For those people who absorb information more easily by reading versus listening, the folks who put on TED talks publish some of those in the form of short books. I read Pico Iyer's book titled, <a href="#"><u>The Art of Stillness: Adventures in Going Nowhere</u></a>. Iyer explores the benefits of sitting still and doing nothing. We spend so much time connected, he relates how being unplugged can be delightful and beneficial. Most readers will be able to read his message in a single sitting. Then the challenge will be what to do next: something or nothing.</p>	

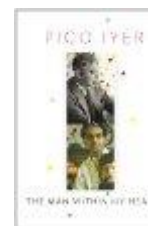


The Man Within  
My Head

Iyer, Pico

Unread

By page 10, I realized I am not that interested in  
Graham Greene after all. Shelf of Ennui 2012.



The Open Road:  
The Global  
Journey of the  
Fourteenth  
Dalai Lama

Iyer, Pico

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Aug 08

**Descriptive.** The author's three decades of  
observation and engagement with the Dalai Lama  
allow him to present a variety of descriptions from  
multiple perspectives, including monk, philosopher  
and politician.

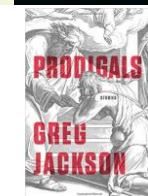


Prodigals

Jackson, Greg

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.

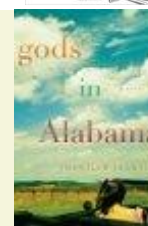


Gods in  
Alabama

Jackson,  
Joshilyn

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



Dirty Old  
London: The  
Victorian Fight  
Against Filth

Jackson, Lee

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



The Last  
Season: A Team  
In Search of Its  
Soul






Jackson, Phil


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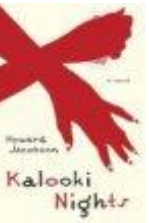
Oct 05

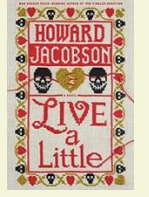
**Unmanageable.** Somewhat detached, day-by-day,  
play-by-play perspective on the 2003-4 Lakers  
season, which was to have been Jackson's finale  
and harsh words about the unmanageable Kobe  
Bryant. Even more interesting now that Jackson's  
rehired.




<a href="#"><u>More Than a Game</u></a>	Jackson, Phil and Charley Rosen	***	<a href="#"><u>06/01</u></a>	Basketball lovers will enjoy recap of game after game.	
That Man: An Insider's Portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt	Jackson, Robert Houghwout	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<a href="#"><u>It's About the Money</u></a>	Jackson, Sr., Reverend Jesse; Jackson, Jesse L.; and Gotschall, Mary	***	<a href="#"><u>4/00</u></a>	A well-written primer on such financial concepts as credit, insurance, investment, financial planning and educating others on financial matters. Good resource book for employees or customers.	
<a href="#"><u>How to Think: A Survival Guide for a World at Odds</u></a>	Jacobs, Alan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<a href="#"><u>I Might Regret This: Essays, Drawings, Vulnerabilities, and Other Stuff</u></a>	Jacobson, Abbi	***	<a href="#"><u>3/18/19</u></a>	<b>Anxieties.</b> Fans of Comedy Central's series, Broad Street, are those readers most likely to enjoy reading co-star Abbi Jacobson's book titled, <a href="#"><u>I Might Regret This: Essays, Drawings, Vulnerabilities, and Other Stuff</u></a> . This creative artist writes with humor and quirkiness, revealing lots of her anxieties and issues. Failing to sleep in hotel rooms during a roadtrip, bagels she's loved, and love woes are all fodder for Jacobson's reflections. She even includes some of her artwork. Whether she regrets making herself vulnerable through this work is something left unaddressed, as the title indicates.	


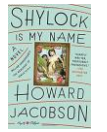
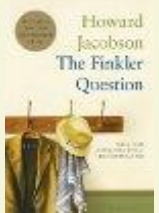
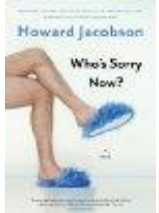
J	Jacobson, Howard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
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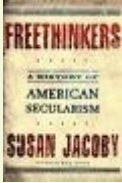
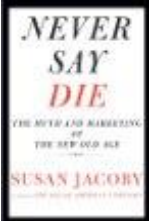
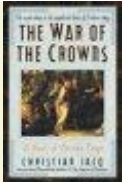

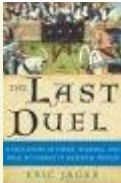
Kalooki Nights	Jacobson, Howard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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<a href="#">Live a Little</a>	Jacobson, Howard	*****	<a href="#">10/15/19</a>	<p><b>Joy.</b> I defy any reader of Howard Jacobson's novel titled, <a href="#">Live a Little</a>, to come away from the book without a feeling of joy. Protagonists Shimi and Beryl are nonagenarians who are approaching the end of life while giving a new loving relationship one more try. Beryl has a sharp word for everybody and enjoys every volley she sends to people nearby. Shimi's popularity among the widows of his cohort doesn't bring him pleasure. He prefers practicing cartomancy at the Chinese restaurant when he's not ruminating about his past. Jacobson brings these opposite types together and encourages them to do what the title of the novel says. My heart was touched by this novel and I laughed and smiled a lot while reading it.</p>	
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<a href="#">No More Mr. Nice Guy</a>	Jacobson, Howard	***	<a href="#">11/18/11</a>	<p><b>Raunchy.</b> Readers who can tolerate an abundance of explicit and raunchy sexual narrative will find Howard Jacobson's novel, <a href="#">No More Mr. Nice Guy</a>, entertaining and funny while addressing the serious subject of marital relationships. Protagonist Frank Ritz finds himself thrown out of his house by his partner Melissa Paul. He travels around the country remembering sex past and looking for sex present. His introspection about his life and sexual activity leads him to view his life in a more complete way. I picked up this novel after I read Jacobson's Man</p>	
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Booker award winning novel, *The Finkler Question*. The two books hold little in common in subject matter and style, but share fine quality writing from a skilled novelist.

<a href="#"><u>Pussy</u></a>	Jacobson, Howard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<a href="#"><u>Shylock Is My Name</u></a>	Jacobson, Howard	***	<a href="#"><u>10/9/17</u></a>	<b>Heritage.</b> The contribution of Howard Jacobson to the Hogarth Shakespeare Series is a contemporary take on <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> titled, <a href="#"><u>Shylock Is My Name</u></a> . Filled with wit and humor, Jacobson explores the issue of living as a Jew in the world today. Shylock's conversations with his dead wife, Leah, are a highpoint in this book. His conversations with art collector Simon Strulovitch are philosophical and interesting.	
<a href="#"><u>The Finkler Question</u></a>	Jacobson, Howard	***	<a href="#"><u>8/2/11</u></a>	<b>Talmudic.</b> After Howard Jacobson's novel won the Man Booker Prize, I picked up a copy of <a href="#"><u>The Finkler Question</u></a> . This is a funny and wise novel that explores the question of what it means to be Jewish in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century. The backdrop for this exploration is the interplay between three characters whose friendship, competitiveness, and life's experiences provide fine reading entertainment, especially for those readers who enjoy quality writing.	
Who's Sorry Now?	Jacobson, Howard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	

Freethinkers : a history of American secularism	Jacoby, Susan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<a href="#"><u>Never Say Die: The Myth and Marketing of the New Old Age</u></a>	Jacoby, Susan	****	<a href="#"><u>3/12/11</u></a>	<p><b>Mortality.</b> How willing are you to face the fact of death? Do you expect a long and carefree old age? For a reality check no matter how resigned you are to mortality, read Susan Jacoby's new book, <a href="#"><u>Never Say Die: The Myth and Marketing of the New Old Age</u></a>. Jacoby holds a mirror of realism up to the illusions about aging that seem to dominate many perceptions. While she presents a variety of viewpoints, her own opinions and experience can become distracting at times. Despite this shortcoming, the book can encourage readers to think about aging and mortality in ways that are realistic.</p>	
The War of the Crowns	Jacq, Christian	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
<a href="#"><u>These Possible Lives</u></a>	Jaeggy, Fleur	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<a href="#"><u>The Last Duel</u></a>	Jager, Eric	***	<a href="#"><u>Dec 04</u></a>	<p><b>Engrossing.</b> Realistic, sometimes gory, details of the last legally sanctioned duel in 1386 makes medieval France come alive for readers.</p>	

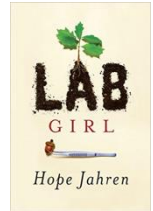
[Lab Girl](#)

Jahren, Hope

\*\*\*\*

[5/26/16](#)

**Invitation.** So many memoirs are self-serving on the one hand or totally dysfunctional on the other. Readers will find something quite different in Hope Jahren's memoir titled, [Lab Girl](#). Jahren is a biologist, a prominent scientist, and her book is a subtle invitation to young women: this is a great life, consider becoming a scientist just like me. Her voice encourages close attention, her love of plants might become contagious, and her humor keeps the book moving along at a brisk pace. If any of that sounds interesting to you, chances are you will be delighted by this memoir.

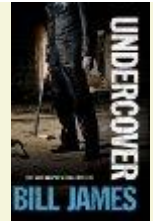


Undercover

James, Bill

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



[Cheer Up Mr. Widdicombe](#)

James, Evan

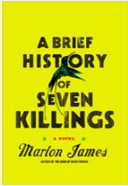
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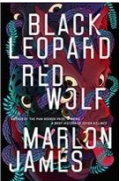
[12/9/19](#)

**Class.** Readers with an appetite for wit and satire should consider reading Evan James' debut novel titled, [Cheer Up Mr. Widdicombe](#). The cast of characters face first world problems that apply specifically to the most affluent among us. If Bernie Sanders read this book, he'd be likely to say, "What the hell is wrong with these people?" The title refers to the message to paterfamilias Frank Widdicombe who is bummed that his annual excursion with buddies to France has been scuttled. Readers who are wont to use "summer" as a verb, and you know who you are, are those most likely to see themselves and friends described with pithiness in this novel. Readers who don't summer in an exclusive setting can pick up this novel and glimpse over the walls of class privilege but might be hard pressed to appreciate the humor.



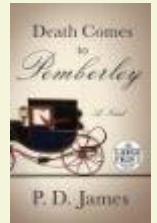


<a href="#"><u>A Brief History of Seven Killings</u></a>	James, Marlon	*****	<a href="#"><u>11/20/15</u></a>	<p><b>Singer.</b> If Marlon James' novel titled, <a href="#"><u>A Brief History of Seven Killings</u></a>, is the short version at over 700 pages, I wonder what a not-brief version would be. For patient readers who can tolerate multiple narrators, keeping track of a huge cast of characters, quick shifts in time and place, and examination of the same event from multiple points of view, there is a lot to like in this finely written novel. James' use of language will delight fans of the written word. Fans of Jamaica and Bob Marley, called the singer in this novel, will appreciate the exploration of the 1976 assassination attempt on Marley. For many readers, this novel provides insight into long term pain and suffering and into the struggles of people we may not encounter in our day to day lives.</p>	
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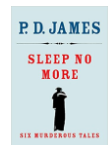
<a href="#"><u>Black Leopard, Red Wolf</u></a>	James, Marlon	*****	<a href="#"><u>4/4/19</u></a>	<p><b>Nose.</b> Talented writer Marlon James opens his Dark Star Trilogy with a novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Black Leopard, Red Wolf</u></a>. Before a reader opens page one, you should consider the consequences of beginning to read what will be three novels: a commitment to lots and lots of pages. Once you start on this reading adventure, James will pull you into stories from African history and mythology while creating a fantasy world that will consume your time and attention for many hours. Once James presented the character, Tracker, whose nose allows him to find people by following their scents, I was hooked. Once on board, the adventure took me to strange and unfamiliar places, to violence and intense sexuality. The bulk of this first novel is the journey of the nose named Tracker and his search for a missing boy. James empties his imagination with the creatures Tracker encounters on this journey. I felt myself in good hands with Marlon James as he made a world in which I became intrigued, interested and eventually caring. James is a master</p>	
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of voice, and while in this installment the world we see if from Tracker's perspective, the next novel may offer a different voice, another point of view. I look forward to it. After all, I've become hooked.

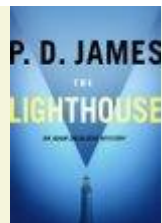
**Curiosity.** I was intrigued when I heard that the venerable mystery writer, P.D. James, chose to set her latest novel, Death Comes to Pemberley, in the place, time, and characters of Jane Austen. Curiosity brought me to this novel, and James' skill at mystery writing kept me interested. I suspect that both Austen and James fans are likely to come away from this novel with some degree of disappointment. Darcy, Elizabeth, Wickham and others are familiar characters to most readers, but they are set in our minds from Austen's writing. James may be true to many aspects of these well-developed characters, but she sets them in a situation that is unlike anything that Austen would have done. Along the way, readers get an interesting mystery to read, but one neither great nor memorable.



**Luscious.** Mystery lovers are those readers most likely to enjoy the six succinct and luscious short stories in a collection by P. D. James titled, Sleep No More: Six Murderous Tales. James wrote with great skill, and in each of these stories, she explores criminality and evil with precision. I savored each of these stories, separating them by a day or two to prolong the experience.



**Shining.** New and old James readers will enjoy the reprise of Commander Adam Dalgliesh, and the detailed way the author describes settings and develops characters.



<u>Death Comes to Pemberley</u>	James, P.D.	**	<u>1/18/12</u>	
<u>Sleep No More: Six Murderous Tales</u>	James, P.D.	****	<u>1/12/18</u>	
<u>The Lighthouse</u>	James, P.D.	***	<u>May 06</u>	

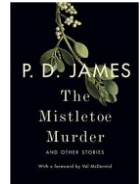
[The Mistletoe Murder](#)

James, P.D.

\*\*\*\*

[1/24/17](#)

**Feted.** I was feted recently by reading four posthumous stories by P.D. James in a collection named after one of them, [The Mistletoe Murder](#). An added bonus is that a young Adam Dalgliesh is featured in two of the stories. I inhaled these storied quickly, and was entertained thoroughly. It felt like running into an old friend after a long time spent apart. I was quite thrilled when I finished the first story with the sense I had felt often from this fine writer: she tricked me again! Fans of P.D. James are those readers most likely to enjoy this new collection.



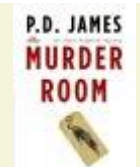
[The Murder Room](#)

James, P.D.

\*\*

[Mar 04](#)

**Prolonged.** For some readers the drawn out plot momentum prolongs the pleasure of discovering clues, while others will be infuriated by the sluggish pace. Still waiting for the next Agatha Christie.



[The Private Patient](#)


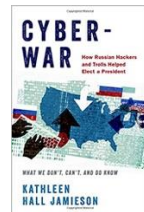
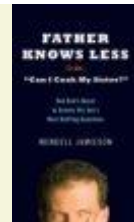
James, P.D.

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[12/21/08](#)

**Motive.** P.D. James' latest Adam Dalgliesh novel is titled, [The Private Patient](#). In this finely written mystery, James presents readers with dozens of ways to think about motives, and ponder the question of whether or not we can ever understand another's motive. Investigative journalist Rhoda Gradwyn decides to have an unsightly scar removed from her face after decades of living with it. Why now? She chooses a private clinic in Dorset, that's part of an old manor house. Why there? She's murdered, and Dalgliesh is called in to solve the case. His questions remain after he knows who did it. Completion without understanding feels like unfinished business to A.D. At the same time, feeling that one knows "the truth" is arrogant and impertinent. We may gain some understanding and insight, but do we ever understand motive? I enjoyed this book from beginning to end, and well after I figured out whodunit, I enjoyed the process by which James led me to keep thinking.



<a href="#"><u>Aerogrammes: and Other Stories</u></a>	James, Tania	***	<a href="#"><u>7/23/12</u></a>	<p><b>Yearning.</b> Reading short stories in the Summer can be ideal. A reader can relax into a single story for a little while and then do something else. Fans of short stories will love Tania James' collection, <a href="#"><u>Aerogrammes: and Other Stories</u></a>, during the Summer or anytime. James presents recognizable characters who are yearning for something out of reach. Her skill in developing these characters and structuring each story is impressive. James presents life and truth to readers in ways that made me laugh and also induced a sense of empathy and longing. If you like short stories, consider reading this finely written collection.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Cyberwar: How Russian Hackers and Trolls Helped Elect a President What We Don't, Can't, and Do Know</u></a>	Jamieson, Kathleen Hall	****	<a href="#"><u>4/25/19</u></a>	<p><b>Sobering.</b> University of Pennsylvania professor Kathleen Hall Jamieson presents a scholarly approach for general readers in her book titled, <a href="#"><u>Cyberwar: How Russian Hackers and Trolls Helped Elect a President What We Don't, Can't, and Do Know</u></a>. This is a sobering account of all the who, what, how and why from 2016, along with an assessment of how unprepared we are for waging the ongoing Cyberwar. Whether the Mueller Report answered your questions or not about the 2016 Presidential election, Jamieson's book will be of interested to all readers concerned about public affairs and our cyber vulnerabilities.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Father Knows Less or Can I Cook My Sister?</u></a>	Jamieson, Wendell	***	<a href="#"><u>Nov 07</u></a>	<p><b>Parenting.</b> City editor of <i>The New York Times</i> takes seriously the many questions of his young son and other kids, goes out and gets the answers from experts, and compiles the results in this book.</p>	

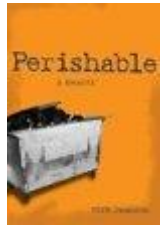
Perishable

Jamison, Dirk

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Oct 06

**Abuse.** Memoir of a California childhood featuring fine writing about an irresponsible father who dumpster dives to feed the family, a detached and stupid mother, and a physically abusive older sister.



Exuberance

Jamison, Kay  
Redfield

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

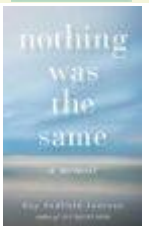


Nothing Was  
the Same

Jamison, Kay  
Redfield

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010



Make It Scream,  
Make It Burn

Jamison, Leslie

\*\*\*\*\*

7/15/20

**Range.** There's a wide range of topics in the collection of essays by Leslie Jamison titled, Make It Scream, Make It Burn. Her writing is what's constant: a sharp eye and the ability to choose words with care and precision. There's a sensation of loneliness that captures a reader, whether found in a whale or a person. There's a close examination of the self and a way of seeing distant places in a new way. There were times while reading this that I felt as if I were following Jamison's own curiosity, examining something until sense began to penetrate her big brain. Intelligent readers are those most likely to enjoy these finely written essays.



Finding My  
Voice: My  
Journey to the  
West Wing and

Jarrett, Valerie

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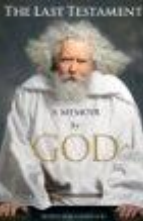
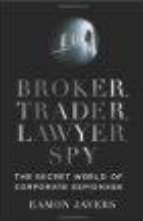
7/16/19

**Optimistic.** Valerie Jarrett's memoir titled, Finding My Voice: My Journey to the West Wing and the Path Forward, offers a story of her life that's so conversational that many readers will feel like they are sharing a meal with the author. Jarrett



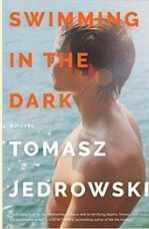


the Path  
Forward

is both confident and self-aware, so she tells us about her life in ways that will connect to a reader's own life experiences. Her extraordinary accomplishments in public service and friendship with the Obamas come across as relatable to our own friendships and our accomplishments, no matter what those are. The tone throughout the memoir is optimistic, and it's clear by the end that anyone who can claim Valerie Jarrett as a friend has lived an enriched life because of her presence.

What Would Google Do?	Jarvis, Jeff	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
Intern: A Doctor's Initiation	Jauhar, Sundeeep	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
The Last Testament: A Memoir by God	Javerbaum, David	Unread		I stopped at page 26, realizing that the schtick just wasn't keeping me interested. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
Broker, Trader, Lawyer, Spy: The Secret World of Corporate Espionage	Javers, Eamon	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	



Decoded	Jay-Z	Unread		I flipped through this book, but found my attention waned as I started reading the text. Best suited for his diehard fans. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	
<a href="#">The Paris Directive</a>	Jay, Gerald	*****	<a href="#">3/25/13</a>	<p><b>Wits.</b> Fans of detective fiction who revel in the matching of wits between criminal and cop are those most likely to enjoy reading <a href="#">The Paris Directive</a> by Gerald Jay. Protagonist Paul Mazarelle is a detective who moved from Paris to a village in the Dorgogne, Taziac, to be closer to the home of his ill wife's family. He wife died, and Mazarelle seems stuck in the village, unsure of what's next for him. When a worthy criminal advisory, Klaus Reiner, commits murder in town, Mazarelle engages in a fast-paced game of wits to solve the case. I was thoroughly entertained by this novel, and found character development and plot to be well done by the author who writes using a pseudonym. Jay promises a sequel featuring Mazarelle, and I look forward to reading it.</p>	
<a href="#">Swimming in the Dark</a>	Jedrowski, Tomasz	*****	<a href="#">7/15/20</a>	<p><b>Choices.</b> In his debut novel titled, <a href="#">Swimming in the Dark</a>, Tomasz Jedrowski brings readers to 1980s Poland and into the lives of two young men who fall in love as they spend time together in the countryside after attending a summer agricultural camp. Ludwik and Janusz choose different paths when they return to Warsaw. One does what is expected to rise in the Communist party, and the other protests against the government. The story is compelling, the writing somewhat melancholy, and the situation relatable for many people around the world who search for both love and freedom.</p>	

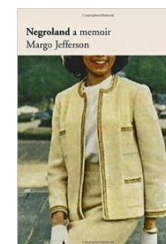
Negroland: A  
Memoir

Jefferson, Margo

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1/19/16

**Staccato.** Longtime book and theater critic Margo Jefferson turns her critical eye toward herself and her life in a finely written book titled, Negroland: A Memoir. Readers looking for a flowing narrative proceeding from childhood to the present will be surprised by the staccato style that Jefferson uses to convey her observations about class, race, relationships, gender and society. Like the way our memory works, Jefferson leaps from one recollection to another in no particular sequence. As a white man from a working class family, there's not much I have in common with a black woman from a wealthy family. Yet, I read each page with interest. She observes and analyzes the tension that has dominated her life. She welcomes readers into a world few of us have experienced or may understand, and allows us to learn new things about human nature.



The City We  
Became

Jemisin, N.K.

\*\*\*\*

6/2/20

**Avatars.** The first installment in N.K. Jemisin's planned Great Cities Trilogy is a novel titled, The City We Became. Anyone who has lived in a great city knows that the place seems alive and has a certain set personality. I don't read a lot of fantasy fiction, but there are times we need to escape our world and Jemisin offers that with her writing skills. In the novel, she reveals avatars for New York's five boroughs and pits them against an alien from the multiverse. Each borough's personality shines in these characters. Avatars for São Paulo and Hong Kong show up to help New York out. For a great escape that also captures contemporary life, consider reading this novel and the others in the series when they are released.

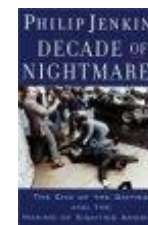


Decade of  
Nightmares

Jenkins, Philip

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



Franklin Delano  
Roosevelt

Jenkins, Roy

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Jan 04

**Eloquent.** Another well written volume in the American Presidents series. Jenkins died before finishing the last few pages, and this final work from a great historian and politician leaves an eloquent legacy.



It's not the BIG  
that eat the  
SMALL ... it's  
the FAST that  
eat the SLOW:  
How to use  
Speed as a  
Competitive  
Tool in Business

Jennings, Jason

\*\*\*

07/01

Great book to help prepare for strategy meetings. Brief stories; easy to remember. Speed counts.



Moral Hazard

Jennings, Kate

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Sep 02

Novel stretches from glimpses of life as Wall Street speechwriter for buzzword-afflicted executives to caring for sick husband.

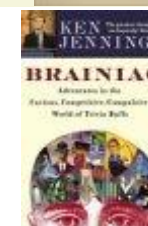


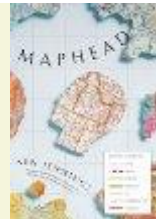
Brainiac

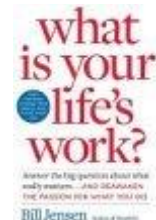
Jennings, Ken


Unread


Shelf of Ennui 2007



Maphead: Charting the Wide, Weird World of Geography Wonks	Jennings, Ken	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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What Is Your Life's Work	Jensen, Bill	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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<u>Work 2.0: Rewriting the Contract</u>	Jensen, Bill	*	<u>Jul 02</u>	If you like poor writing and a preachy message, this is the book for you.	
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<u>Decoded</u>	Jia, Mai	***	<u>6/27/14</u>	<p><b>Key.</b> Genius and insanity can go hand in hand. Mai Jia's novel, <u>Decoded</u>, presents readers with a fascinating protagonist, Rong Jinzhen, a genius at math. Once his talents are recognized, he's taken from his family and placed in a special unit of cryptographers. Jia captures the psychological components of Jinzhen's situation, and structures the novel to require readers to search for ways to figure out this interesting person and his predicament. Every code seems to require a key, and Jinzhen cracks most codes swiftly, almost effortlessly. There are dreams to reckon with and adversaries who may be friends, and friends who may be adversaries. I suggest reading an excerpt before leaping into this novel. Perhaps there were translation challenges, or cultural signposts I missed, but I found the odd structure more off putting than challenging.</p>	
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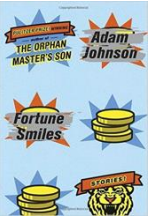
<a href="#"><u>News of the World</u></a>	Jiles, Paulette	****	<a href="#"><u>1/16/17</u></a>	<p><b>Transport.</b> If you're a reader without a lot of time for those sweeping novels of historical fiction, consider reading Paulette Jiles' fine novel titled, <a href="#"><u>News of the World</u></a>. Set mostly in Texas in 1870, protagonist Jefferson Kidd's regular job is reading world news to small towns on a traveling circuit where people pay a small fee to be transported by Kidd to lands far and wide. He has supplemented this regular gig with an assignment to return a ten-year-old girl named Johanna from her recent release from captivity by the Kiowa to her relatives far away. Jiles presents the road journey as the plot momentum, while deeply developing the characters and describing the setting and morals of the time period. Within just over 200 pages, Jiles sends readers to this time in Texas and introduces us to fascinating characters whose lives we quickly care about deeply.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Simon the Fiddler</u></a>	Jiles, Paulette	****	<a href="#"><u>5/5/20</u></a>	<p><b>Pursuit.</b> Paulette Jiles sets her novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Simon the Fiddler</u></a>, in Texas as the Civil War is ending. Protagonist Simon Boudlin is a twenty-three-year-old musician who has avoided military service for both sides, thanks to his artistic skill. He pursues an indentured Irish servant with whom he falls in love. Jiles offers readers an enjoyable love story, surrounded by the atmosphere of life in post-war Texas. Fans of historical fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>A Distant Center</u></a>	Jin, Ha	****	<a href="#"><u>11/6/18</u></a>	<p><b>Quiet.</b> I wonder why I don't read more poetry. After reading the collection of poems by Ha Jin titled, <a href="#"><u>A Distant Center</u></a>, I noticed how quiet my mind and surroundings became. I usually read poems slowly, more than once. I find the experience calming and thoughtful. This short collection is packed with memory, images and descriptions of home and places far from home. Any reader who enjoys poetry will find many finely written poems in</p>	

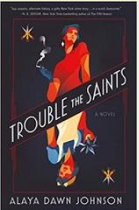
				this collection. Those readers who want to find a quiet place to think can use the opportunity of reading these poems to go to such a place, however near or far that place might be.	
<a href="#">A Free Life</a>	Jin, Ha	***	<a href="#">June 08</a>	<b>Home.</b> Finely written 670 page novel describes the ordinary daily experiences of a Chinese family who moved to America to assemble what we all recognize as a home.	
<a href="#">A Good Fall</a>	Jin, Ha	***	<a href="#">12/14/09</a>	<b>Struggles.</b> The twelve short stories in Ha Jin's new collection titled, <a href="#">A Good Fall</a> , present snapshots of the Chinese immigrant experience in Flushing, Queens, New York. The characters are mostly in transition, from one type of life in China to a different life in New York. Relationships are strained, expectations are mismatched, and struggle seems constant. Young people and old are finding ways to adjust to new lives in a new world. Many short story writers sacrifice some component of their fiction because of the efficiency of the medium. Ha Jin develops his characters in ways that bring them to robust life. His descriptive language provides just enough color to create real places. The plot structure works for each story. In all, his writing is well-crafted, and the stories in <a href="#">A Good Fall</a> will bring pleasure to most readers, and a resonance for any immigrant.	
A Map of Betrayal	Jin, Ha	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

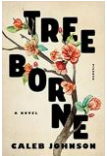


<a href="#"><u>The Banished Immortal: A Life of Li Bai</u></a>	Jin, Ha	****	<a href="#"><u>5/24/19</u></a>	<b>Poet.</b> Thanks to his fine writing, Ha Jin kept me engaged in his biography titled, <a href="#"><u>The Banished Immortal: A Life of Li Bai</u></a> . Li Bai lived during the Tang dynasty, in the early part of the eighth century. Readers get to learn about the poet through his poems as well as through the clear description of his life as described by Ha Jin. Since the poet enjoyed many a tipples during his life, I strongly encourage a glass or two of some alcohol while reading this book. When you hear about his drinking exploits, you'll be more empathetic. Then read a poem and go to sleep.	
<a href="#"><u>The Boat Rocker</u></a>	Jin, Ha	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<a href="#"><u>The Bridegroom</u></a>	Jin, Ha	***		Fascinating short stories of life in China. Award winning author.	
War Trash	Jin, Ha	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<a href="#"><u>Little Gods</u></a>	Jin, Meng	****	<a href="#"><u>5/15/20</u></a>	<b>Generations.</b> The debut novel by Meng Jin titled, <a href="#"><u>Little Gods</u></a> , explores a question pondered often by the children of immigrants: where do we come from? Jin reveals the answer for protagonist Liya in the same way readers discover the story: in pieces, backwards and forwards, a gradual unveiling of events and memories to achieve understanding. We learn about physics, relationships and what inheritance means across generations. There are memories and ghosts, grief and joy. This novel	

				offers more than the usually fraught mother-daughter relationship. Readers learn what's involved in accepting reality and making decisions that we think are best.	
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<a href="#">Fortune Smiles</a>	Johnson, Adam	*****	<a href="#">9/23/15</a>	<p><b>Winning.</b> After reading the six short stories in the collection by Adam Johnson titled, <a href="#">Fortune Smiles</a>, I gained a deeper understanding of why this fine writer has won so many awards. With finely written prose, using great efficiency, Johnson develops characters fully and places them in situations of conflict or change that allows readers to gain insight into our human condition. Readers who appreciate finely written prose, especially those who like short stories, will find superb writing in this collection.</p>	
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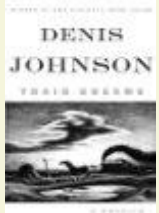
<a href="#">Trouble the Saints</a>	Johnson, Alaya Dawn	****	<a href="#">12/9/20</a>	<p><b>Magical.</b> Alaya Dawn Johnson presents the perspectives of three characters in her novel titled, <a href="#">Trouble the Saints</a>. In the first section, we meet an assassin named Pea whose hands have an unexplained, inherited, magical power. Pea's lover, Dev, comes next, and we learn more about Pea and others from his perspective. By the time a dancer named Tamara gives her perspective, we know her well enough to increase our appreciation of her humanity and complexity. The prose often sings, and the setting in New York in the 1940s is drawn with great skill.</p>	
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<a href="#">Treeborne</a>	Johnson, Caleb	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
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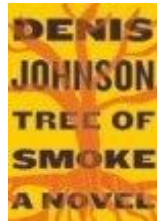
Nemesis	Johnson, Chalmers	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<a href="#">Night Hawks</a>	Johnson, Charles	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<a href="#">Dr. King's Refrigerator and Other Bedtime Stories</a>	Johnson, Charles Richard	***	<a href="#">Aug 05</a>	<p><b>Simple.</b> Eight simple and focused stories that, if read at bedtime, will lead to a restful sleep. One story, “Executive Decisions” focuses on the choice between two differently qualified job candidates.</p>	
<a href="#">Everything Under</a>	Johnson, Daisy	****	<a href="#">8/27/19</a>	<p><b>River.</b> Readers who enjoy finely written literary fiction should consider Daisy Johnson’s debut novel titled, <a href="#">Everything Under</a>. Give yourself over to the flow of Johnson’s prose as she meanders like a river while updating the story of Oedipus to a modern setting. While reading the novel, I was often confused and uncertain about where the story was and where it might be going. Johnson’s prose kept me patient and spending time with her on this journey of words was rewarding, if only to remind me to be patient.</p>	
<a href="#">Sisters</a>	Johnson, Daisy	****	<a href="#">10/27/20</a>	<p><b>Siblings.</b> Love and competition are often intertwined in sibling relationships. In her novel titled, <a href="#">Sisters</a>, Daisy Johnson haunts readers with the lives of July and September as they face trauma and abuse. Johnson’s prose keeps readers unsettled as she spills out her story in dribs and drabs, building to a surprising twist at the end. On the journey from beginning to end, Johnson’s prose is beguiling and will be appreciated by those readers</p>	

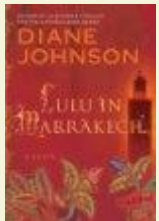
				<p>who enjoy finely written literary fiction and can tolerate meandering.</p> <p><b>Noir.</b> The characters in Denis Johnson's novel, <a href="#"><u>Nobody Move</u></a>, are a west coast version of the Florida types that Carl Hiaason presents. Each one is a complicated low life facing alternating good and back luck as they eek out a living. In Johnson's creation, the mood is constantly noir and bleak, but comic at the same time. Protagonist Jimmy Luntz is a compulsive gambler who sings barbership. The action accelerates when an enforcer comes to collect money. One thing leads to another for Luntz in ways that kept me turning the pages. Johnson's dialogue and descriptive narrative are both finely written, providing lots of pleasure on the pages of <a href="#"><u>Nobody Move</u></a>.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Nobody Move</u></a>	Johnson, Denis	***	<a href="#"><u>6/14/09</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>The Largesse of the Sea Maiden</u></a>	Johnson, Denis	*****	<a href="#"><u>2/22/18</u></a>	<p><b>Voice.</b> I was reminded when reading every page of the new short story collection by the late Denis Johnson titled, <a href="#"><u>The Largesse of the Sea Maiden</u></a>, that he will no longer be sharing his voice with fans. Each of the five short stories in this collection offers deep insight into human nature and provides a lyrical telling of stories about the vibrancy of life. Like most of us, these characters are limited by constraints of one kind or another, they have a good sense of humor, and their hopes resonate with our own. Like many great writers, Johnson had the ability to introduce us to people who seem to be not at all like us, and after a while we realize how much we have in common. Readers who enjoy expertly written short stories are those most likely to enjoy this collection.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Laughing Monsters</u></a>	Johnson, Denis	****	<a href="#"><u>11/24/14</u></a>	<p><b>Rogues.</b> Fans of literary fiction who enjoy the ways in which a short novel can lead a reader to think about some big questions are those most likely to enjoy reading Denis Johnson's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Laughing Monsters</u></a>. One such question for me after</p>	

reading this finely written novel is: how do we regain trust after something has happened to cause doubt? Protagonist Roland Nair is an intelligence officer who heads to West Africa to connect with a friend, Michael Adriko, who has an idea to make them rich. These rogues are wary of each other, which Johnson allows to develop gradually, and the setting leads readers into the darkness of Africa as the plot unfolds and we become present in the places described. I zipped through this novel quickly and enjoyed it thoroughly.

<a href="#"><u>Train Dreams</u></a>	Johnson, Denis	****	<a href="#"><u>9/23/11</u></a>	<p><b>Descriptive.</b> Somehow I missed Denis Johnson's novella, <a href="#"><u>Train Dreams</u></a>, when it won the O. Henry prize in 2003. Recently released in hardback, I read it in a single sitting and found Johnson's descriptive language to be pitch perfect. Readers are transported to the West in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and Johnson wastes no words in fleshing out a protagonist shaped by the West. Any fan of literary fiction, good writing, and especially the West, will find much to enjoy in this finely written short work.</p>	
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Tree of Smoke      Johnson, Denis      Unread      Shelf of Ennui 2008



<a href="#"><u>Lulu in Marrakech</u></a>	Johnson, Diane	**	<a href="#"><u>12/21/08</u></a>	<p><b>Stumbling.</b> Diane Johnson's novel, <a href="#"><u>Lulu in Marrakech</u></a>, is packed with a series of interesting scenes full of confusion and cultural misunderstandings and prejudices. The protagonist, whom we know by her undercover name, Lulu Sawyer, works as a CIA agent in Marrakech trying to identify the source of funds for terrorism. Lulu landed in Morocco to follow her new English lover, Ian Drumm, whom she met in Kosovo when they both worked there with refugees.</p>	
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				Lulu is the unlikeliest of spies, and her cultural clashes are often both hilarious and tragic. While Lulu stumbled and bumbled her way through one scene after another, I read on, hoping that all the pieces would come together and that relationships and characters would develop. This didn't happen. Diane Johnson is a fine writer, and she added a treat in the form of interesting quotes at the beginning of each chapter. The sum of the pieces here don't add up to become an enjoyable, entertaining or enlightening novel.	
32 Ways to Be a Champion in Business	Johnson, Earvin Magic	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
Finding God in the Questions	Johnson, G. Timothy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<u>Window Seat on the World: My Travels with the Secretary of State</u>	Johnson, Glen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>The Best of Times: America in the Clinton Years</u>	Johnson, Haynes	***	<u>Feb 02</u>	Falling somewhere between journalism and history, Johnson presents economic prosperity alongside scandal and celebrity obsession.	



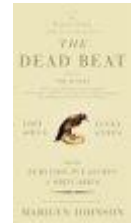
The Dead Beat

Johnson, Marilyn

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July 06

**Keen.** Author explores the world of the creative journalists who write obituary columns and their editors, and reveals how they find the perfect words and phrases to capture the life of their subjects.

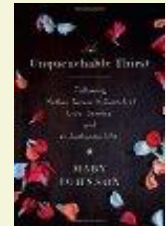


An Unquenchable Thirst: Following Mother Teresa in Search of Love, Service, and an Authentic Life

Johnson, Mary

Unread

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



Loving Day

Johnson, Mat

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9/15/15

**Mixed.** Readers who enjoy fine writing and social satire are those most likely to enjoy reading Mat Johnson's novel titled, Loving Day. Protagonist Warren Duffy is the emerging twenty-first century American Everyman. Warren is the child of a black woman and an Irish-American white man. After he returns to Philadelphia from Wales where his marriage failed, he discovers that he fathered a daughter who has been raised Jewish. Living in the rundown house he inherited from his late father, Warren sees ghosts and struggles to survive. I found myself laughing and thinking as Johnson guided me through the themes of this novel: identity, race, and family.



Churchill

Johnson, Paul

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2/12/10

**Succinct.** Do any of us really need to read another book about Winston Churchill? The man himself was so prolific that it could take months (or years) of steady reading to get through his own works. Even so, I highly recommend Paul Johnson's succinct biography titled, Churchill. Johnson hones in on pivotal episodes of Winston's life, reminding us of the many ups and downs in the great man's



life. Johnson attempts to balance Churchill's outstanding achievements with his colossal blunders, but it's obvious that Johnson worships Churchill, and the mistakes are dispatched more swiftly than are the successes applauded. Johnson's writing is sharp, the subject always fascinating, and reading [Churchill](#) is worth every brief minute spent enjoying it.

**Power.** Economists Simon Johnson and James Kwak present a little more than two hundred pages of clear and straightforward writing in their new book, [13 Bankers: The Wall Street Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown](#). In a calm and reasoned way, the authors present an overview, context and historical perspective about many of the factors that led to the recent financial crisis, and how despite rhetoric about reform, we seem to be back to business as usual. Consistent with the principles of Thomas Jefferson, Johnson and Kwak express concern about the problems of concentrated power. They show clearly that a handful of privileged banks remain too big to fail, and continue to take risks that could lead to another crisis. Here's the point (p. 180): "The large banks used their political power to protect their money machines from government interference, and when those machines exploded they used their size and importance to force the government to bail them out." Johnson and Kwak propose capping the size of banks. At times, this book reads like a recap of the news headlines of recent years, but that adds to its readability, which is not a bad thing for a book written by economists. Any reader interested in a recap of what brought us to today's concentrated risks, how past leaders broke up powerful concentrated entities, and how the current power of big banks puts us in jeopardy, will find a lot to ponder from these pages.

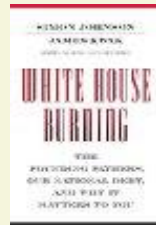

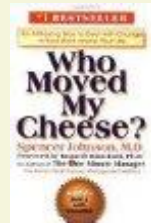
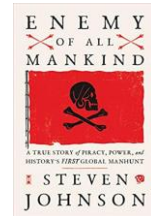

[13 Bankers: The Wall Street Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown](#)

Johnson, Simon  
and James Kwak

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[6/2/10](#)



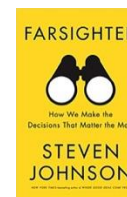
White House Burning: The Founding Fathers, Our National Debt, and Why It Matters to You	Johnson, Simon and James Kwak	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<a href="#"><u>The Present: The Gift That Makes You Happy and Successful At Work and In Life</u></a>	Johnson, Spencer	DNR	<a href="#"><u>June 04</u></a>	<b>Carpe Today.</b> You have better ways to spend your time than spending even an hour reading another simplistic message from this popular writer. It's mostly about "now," except when about "then," or about a gift. Take a pass.	
<a href="#"><u>Who Moved My Cheese: An Amazing Way to Deal with Change in Your Work and in Your Life</u></a>	Johnson, Spencer	DNR		The nice thing about Johnson's books is that they don't take very long to read. Every now and then there's an idea or thought worth hanging onto. We can't understand why this one remains a best seller. Skip it and go dairy free.	
<a href="#"><u>Enemy of All Mankind: A True Story of Piracy, Power, and History's First Global Manhunt</u></a>	Johnson, Steven	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<a href="#"><u>Everything Bad Is Good For You</u></a>	Johnson, Steven	***	<a href="#"><u>Aug 05</u></a>	<b>Contrary.</b> While you may not endorse watching more TV or playing more video and computer games after reading this book, you're likely to think differently about your judgments of what's good or bad for you.	

Farsighted

Johnson, Steven

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World

Johnson, Steven

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11/21/14

**Margins.** General readers who like to be entertained by nonfiction while learning something new should consider reading Steven Johnson's book titled, How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World. He explores six breakthroughs in six chapters that he names: glass, cold, sound, clean, time and light. There's a PBS miniseries of this content, so decide how you'd like to engage: by reading or by watching. One insight I gained from reading this book (reading was faster for me than watching the series) is that breakthroughs often come from the margins, from outside one's core discipline. Inside a core discipline, we tend to see the benefits from gradual improvement, but an outside view can lead to big advances.



The Ghost Map

Johnson, Steven

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Read, but not reviewed.



The Invention of Air

Johnson, Steven

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6/9/09

**Radical.** I didn't know much about the life of Joseph Priestley prior to reading Steven Johnson's new book, The Invention of Air. Science, religion and politics combine and clash in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and Priestley is both instigator and victim of much conflict. Priestley's scientific experiments led him to understand that plants produce gases and helped frame a better understanding of chemistry. Johnson does a great job in presenting Priestley as



				<p>a radical, and places his science and theology in the context of that era. After his house in England is burned by rioters who disagree with Priestley's views, he leaves for America with his family, and becomes a close advisor to Thomas Jefferson. The sharing of information among practitioners of science receives a lot of attention in <a href="#">The Invention of Air</a>, and increases a reader's understanding of the collaboration and sharing of ideas that was prevalent, especially in the many coffee houses and scientific organizations.</p>	
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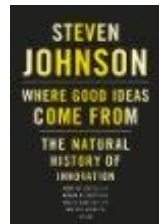
[Where Good Ideas Come From: The Natural History of Innovation](#)

Johnson, Steven

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[10/26/10](#)

**Patterns.** At the beginning of [Where Good Ideas Come From](#), author Steven Johnson describes his purpose in writing the book: "The argument of this book is that a series of shared properties and patterns recur again and again in unusually fertile environments. I have distilled them down into seven patterns...." (p.17) Johnson devotes a chapter to each pattern, and peppers the text with ample examples to keep the book lively. I found Johnson's approach to be intriguing and interesting. I expect that any reader who works in product development, planning, strategy, or any creative pursuit, will find special interest in this book. As a general interest reader, I'm in no position to critique Johnson, but I expect that most readers will come away from this book thinking about innovation in new ways.



<p><a href="#">Wonderland: How Play Made the Modern World</a></p>	Johnson, Steven	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
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[Welcome to Braggsville](#)

Johnson, T.  
Geronimo

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.

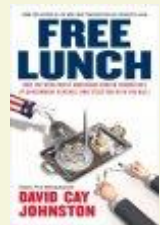


Free Lunch:  
How the  
Wealthiest  
Americans  
Enrich  
Themselves at  
Government  
Expense

Johnston, David  
Cay

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



[It's Even Worse  
Than You  
Think: What the  
Trump  
Administration  
Is Doing to  
America](#)

Johnston, David  
Cay

\*\*\*\*

[3/20/18](#)

**Destruction.** Nothing particular surprised me while reading David Cay Johnston's book titled, [It's Even Worse Than You Think: What the Trump Administration Is Doing to America](#). By the time I finished the book, I felt like I had been in a car crash. Johnston details many of the ways in which actions during the first year of the Trump administration consistently damaged many of the foundations of our democracy. Trump's indifference to conflicts of interest or norms and standards will have lasting consequences. I could have skipped living through a replay of the first Trump year, but I'm glad I read someone else's perspective about what I observed. It's not necessarily worse than I think, but it has been destructive.



Descent

Johnston, Tim

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



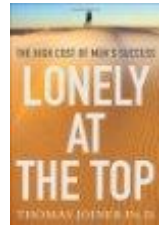


Lonely at the Top: The High Cost of Men's Success

Joiner, Thomas

Unread

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

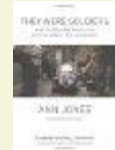


They Were Soldiers: How the Wounded Return from America's Wars: The Untold Story

Jones, Ann

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.

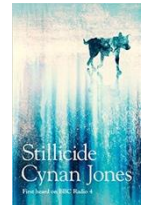


Stillicide

Jones, Cynan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.

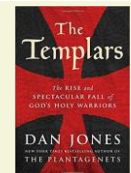


The Templars: The Rise and Spectacular Fall of God's Holy Warriors

Jones, Dan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



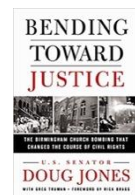
Bending Toward Justice: The Birmingham Church Bombing that Changed the Course of Civil Rights

Jones, Doug

\*\*\*\*\*

5/9/19

**Hope.** It took decades for the victims of the 1963 bombing at a Birmingham church to get justice. The junior senator from Alabama, Doug Jones, tells this story with vivid prose in his book titled, Bending Toward Justice: The Birmingham Church Bombing that Changed the Course of Civil Rights. Jones was involved in the case in a major way as a US Attorney in 2001 and 2002. Homegrown terrorism is not a recent phenomenon. Jones takes us into life in Alabama in the 1960s and after, and he leads us down the long road that ended with justice.



iPod, Therefore I Am	Jones, Dylan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
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All Aunt Hagar's Children

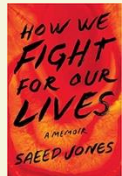
Jones, Edward P.

\*\*\*

Feb 07

**Craftsmanship.** 14 finely written short stories of life in 20<sup>th</sup> century Washington D.C., packed with intricate crafting of plot, character and dialogue.



<u>How We Fight for Our Lives</u>	Jones, Saeed	*****	<u>11/14/19</u>	<p><b>Poetic.</b> The memoir titled, <u>How We Fight for Our Lives</u>, by Saeed Jones describes a young life that may bear no resemblance to the experience of most readers. That's exactly one of the good reasons to pick up this book and enter into the experience of someone whose life has been different from our own. Another good reason is that Jones' prose is finely written, influenced by his poetry, and packed with candor. This examination of a life is reflective and disarming. Jones writes about many relationships that are fraught with drama, stress, even danger, but the memoir turns warm when he writes about his mother.</p>	
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An American Marriage

Jones, Tayari

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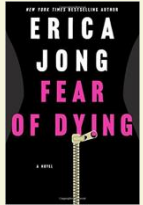
3/20/18

**Complicated.** I've been married for only forty-four years, so I still have a lot to learn about the complications of living with another person in the commitment of marriage. Tayari Jones presents readers with the story of a marriage under great strain and draws us into the lives of characters both different from ourselves and very similar. Her novel titled, An American Marriage, uses protagonists Celestial and Roy as figures to display all the issues related to contemporary marriage, including jobs, in-laws, children and what we do and fail to do for



the other partner in a relationship. Roy's unjust incarceration provides momentum for the plot, but where Jones soars in this novel is in how she makes the particular issues of one marriage universal. All relationships are complicated, and Jones lays out that complexity for all to see.

**Aging.** My recollection of laughing four decades ago while reading Erica Jong's bestseller, *Fear of Flying*, led me to read her latest novel, *Fear of Dying*. Protagonist Vanessa Wonderman is struggling with a lot of aging issues now that she has arrived at age sixty. Her husband is older than she, and he has health problems. Her parents are struggling with old age, as is her poodle. All this could have made for either humor or insight. Instead, I was struck by the ways in which Vanessa chose to place her own needs at center stage. It all came across to me as meaningless, and neither funny nor wise.

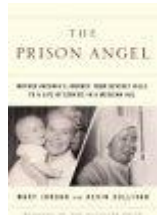
<a href="#"><u>Fear of Dying</u></a>	Jong, Erica	***	<a href="#"><u>10/20/16</u></a>		
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The Prison Angel

Jordan, Mary

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

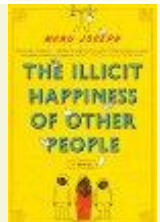


The Illicit Happiness of Other People

Joseph, Manu

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.

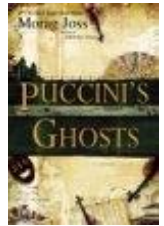


Puccini's Ghosts

Joss, Morag

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



[A Very Punchable Face](#)

Jost, Colin

\*\*\*\*

[11/17/20](#)

**Range.** The title of Colin Jost's memoir, [A Very Punchable Face](#), leads a reader to anticipate self-deprecating humor, and the narrative delivers that and more. From Staten Island to Harvard to Saturday Night Live, Jost delivers readers a range of vignettes and life lessons that will appeal to many readers, whether fans of Jost and SNL or not. It takes vulnerability to succeed in comedy, and Jost finds lots of ways to express that in this entertaining book.

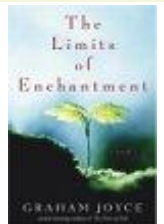


The Limits of Enchantment

Joyce, Graham

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



[The Folded Clock](#)

Julavits, Heidi

\*\*\*\*

[6/10/15](#)

**Compelling.** How can she keep from writing? As a fine writer, married to another fine writer, the most natural thing for Heidi Julavits to do is to write. Her book titled, [The Folded Clock](#), is structured as a diary, moving erratically across time. The reward for readers is her finely honed sentences, which seem to just flow with ease from one day to another. Each short entry seems so well-crafted that I read several of them more than once to see how she constructed the diary entry. The essays are personal, often funny, sometimes self-deprecating. All are finely written and provide a way to see the beauty in our everyday lives.



The Vanishers      Julavits, Heidi      Unread      Shelf of Ennui 2013.



[No One Belongs Here More Than You](#)

July, Miranda

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[Sep 07](#)

**Extremes.** Debut collection of sixteen stories in which the characters leap to extremes in a quest for love and acceptance. Conversational and quirky storytelling.



[The First Bad Man](#)

July, Miranda

\*\*\*\*

[2/24/15](#)

**Uncomfortable.** Fiction can introduce readers to characters and situations that are unlike our own experience, and we can become uncomfortable with the unusual. That was my reaction while reading Miranda July's debut novel titled, [The First Bad Man](#). While the characters and situations were unfamiliar to me, the universal themes resonated, and July's finely written prose made me enjoy this novel very much. The odd but stable world of protagonist Cheryl Gluckman turns upside down when Clee moves in and a child is born. There's a love story here that July handles with great skill. I was pleased to overcome my discomfort and enjoy this finely written novel.



[A Death in Belmont](#)

Junger, Sebastian

\*

[August 06](#)

**Presumption.** A 1963 murder takes place in Junger's childhood neighborhood, and later, a handyman who worked on Junger's home confesses to murders attributed to the Boston Strangler. Junger tries to connect the two to the frustration of many readers.



The Perfect Storm

Junger, Sebastian

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Great writing and a gripping story.



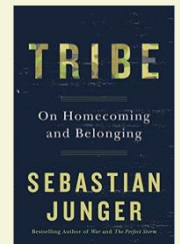
Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging

Junger, Sebastian

\*\*\*\*

7/22/16

**We.** A wise friend once told me that the most important question each of us answers is: “when we say ‘we’ who do we mean?” The togetherness that can be formed when the answer to the question involves a close knit community or small group is part of the topic covered in Sebastian Junger’s book titled, Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging. He uses this subject to explore the challenge of returning veterans as they leave close knit communities, especially in war zones, and try to assimilate into the complexity of our modern society. Junger’s thinking is clear, the topic is interesting, and the book will appeal to any reader who thinks about community and building strong bonds within society.



War

Junger, Sebastian

\*\*\*\*

6/14/10

**Platoon.** One outcome from embedding journalists with troops in Iraq and Afghanistan is that the stories published can provide those of us thousands of miles away with some insight into what the situation is like on the ground. Sebastian Junger was embedded for five months with the U.S. Army’s 2nd Battalion in the Korengal valley, and the book he wrote from this experience is titled, War. Packed with vivid description of the setting, the people and the action, this book soars when Junger explores the many ways in which the members of a platoon subordinate their self interest for the good of the unit. From a society that rewards and encourages the pursuit of self-interest, these soldiers epitomize the greatness that comes from self sacrifice. I finished this book with a renewed





appreciation for the actions of individuals engaged in the hell that is war.

**Portrait.** Readers who appreciate fine writing and who like the development of complex characters who embody the nuances and contradictions of our human condition, are those most likely to enjoy reading Ward Just's latest novel, [American Romantic](#). Just presents the life of Harry Sanders, a career diplomat. The formative events in Harry's life took place when he was assigned to Vietnam in the early 1960s, when he was in his twenties. He finds love with a German woman, Sieglinde, but she abruptly leaves the country without saying goodbye. He goes on a clandestine assignment into the Vietnamese jungle, and comes away from the experience with scars both physical and psychological. Years later, he marries and his diplomatic career advances, but the effects of Vietnam, both love and tragedy, remain vivid in his life. Were there still romantics in the latter part of the twentieth century? In Just's portrait, Harry is a romantic, and a complex, fully developed complex character. Readers who like that in a novel will love this finely written book.



[American Romantic](#)

Just, Ward

\*\*\*\*\*

[4/7/14](#)

[An Unfinished Season](#)

Just, Ward

\*\*\*\*

[Aug 04](#)

What If? Finely crafted novel with pages of perfect narrative lead readers to see the impact of one summer's formative experiences on a lifetime, and wonder what if things had turned out differently.



Exiles in the Garden

Just, Ward

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010



Forgetfulness

Just, Ward

\*\*\*\*

Jan 07

**Disquiet.** After an American ex-pat's French wife is killed by terrorists near their home in a Pyrenees village, he grieves, feels responsible, and considers vengeance or the best friend of the elderly: forgetfulness.



Rodin's Debutante

Just, Ward

\*\*\*\*

1/23/12

**Artist.** How is art formed? How is the artist formed? These are some of the questions that Ward Just explores in his finely written novel, Rodin's Debutante. The core of the novel is a coming of age story about a man named Lee Goodell who grew up in a small town as the child of a prominent father, a judge who was the son of a judge. A side story involves Tommy Ogden a wealthy loner who prefers hunting and whoring over other pursuits. Ogden founds a school which Goodell attends. The novel explodes with the contrasts of beauty and the grittiness of life, and the real scars that Goodell experiences turn into his marbles, the sculptures he creates. Just creates vibrant characters and masterfully expresses powerful emotions with an economy of finely chosen words. Readers who enjoy thought provoking fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.



The Eastern Shore

Just, Ward


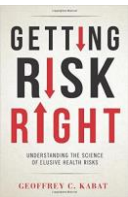
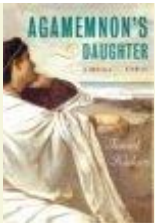

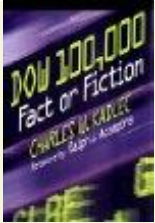
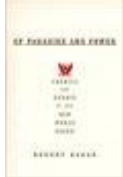
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12/9/16

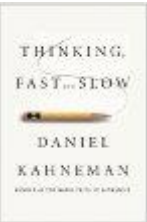
**Editor.** Ward Just uses great skill to balance three key elements in his novel titled, The Eastern Shore. First, he presents readers with a deeply drawn character study of protagonist Ned Ayres, a longtime editor. Second, he sets the contemporary action in a home on Maryland's Eastern Shore and that place provides a physical manifestation of Ned's inner life. Finally, Just explores the complex issue of privacy, especially in the context of journalism. A formative event in Ned's early work life relating to privacy has been on his mind for decades, and Just dissects that expertly. That Just

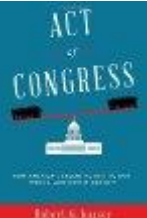



achieves this balance in about two hundred pages brought me great reading pleasure.

<a href="#">The Weather in Berlin</a>	Just, Ward	***	<a href="#">Jul 02</a>	Tightly written novel of filmmaker's return to Berlin for inspiration. Images, mood and weather changes deftly.	
<a href="#">Getting Risk Right: Understanding the Science of Elusive Health Risks</a>	Kabat, Geoffrey	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
Agamemnon's Daughter	Kadare, Ismail	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Twilight of the Eastern Gods	Kadare, Ismail	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
Dow 100,000	Kadlec, Charles W. and Acampora, Ralph J.	DNR	<a href="#">10/99</a>	Skip it.	
<a href="#">Of Paradise and Power: America and Europe in the New World Order</a>	Kagan, Robert	**	<a href="#">June 03</a>	<b>John Wayne and Cheese-Eating Surrender Monkeys.</b> Useful primer on the basis of the current relationship between the U.S. and Europe. Made us want to learn more.	

The World America Made	Kagan, Robert	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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<a href="#"><u>Thinking, Fast and Slow</u></a>	Kahneman, Daniel	*****	<a href="#"><u>3/19/12</u></a>	<p><b>Principles.</b> Readers who like to think about thinking will enjoy Daniel Kahneman's book, <a href="#"><u>Thinking Fast and Slow</u></a>. This Nobel winner elucidates his own research about how the mind works and comments on the insights of other researchers. The title refers to the ways in which our brain leads us toward quick and lazy decisions that are almost automatic versus the harder and slower thinking work that requires greater effort. Kahneman describes his decades of research in a readable style that most readers will find interesting and enlightening. Fans of behavioral economics will find this book to be delightful reading.</p>	
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Act of Congress: How America's Essential Institution Works, and How It Doesn't	Kaiser, Robert G.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
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<a href="#"><u>So Damn Much Money: The Triumph of Lobbying and the Corrosion of American Government</u></a>	Kaiser, Robert G.	***	<a href="#"><u>2/19/09</u></a>	<p><b>Insatiable.</b> The appetite for money to and from Washington is insatiable. For a comprehensive look at how much has evolved in the past three decades, read a new book from <i>Washington Post</i> reporter Robert G. Kaiser titled, <a href="#"><u>So Damn Much Money: The Triumph of Lobbying and the Corrosion of American Government</u></a>. The title comes from a statement by Robert Strauss as an answer to a question about why the lobbying business has prospered so much since the 1970s. Strauss said, (p.</p>	
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360) “There’s just so damn much money in it ... It’s a company town, and the business is lobbying.” Kaiser enlivens his often sober story by highlighting the personality of Gerry Cassidy, co-founder of Cassidy & Associates, the long-time largest lobbying firm in Washington. Cassidy amassed a \$100 million personal fortune from his mastery of earmarks and of hiring the right people at the right times to do what can be done with money in Washington. Even for readers who think they understand Washington politics, there’s likely to be something new to find on these pages.

**Blunt.** Former *New York Times* critic Michiko Kakutani offers a cogent and blunt analysis of our contemporary American life in her book titled, The Death of Truth. Individuals are taking actions to tear down the pillars of society. Our institutions and our democracy have been hobbled by those who have found it easier to tear down than to build. Whether you disagree or agree with her analysis, read this book to think about the issues facing our society. Then, do something to help rebuild.

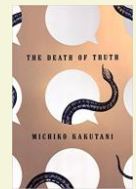
**Meaning.** I loved reading Paul Kalanithi’s memoir titled, When Breath Becomes Air, for so many reasons. First, I found that his love of literature gave him a writing voice that provides readers with authentic, clear and finely written prose. This writing is some of the best prose I’ve read in years. Second, he grapples with the core question of finding meaning in life: both how to live and how to die. For some of us, this is one of the main reasons we read many forms of both fiction and non-fiction: how we can learn about the essence of our human nature through the lives of others. Third, he conveys what happened to him as a student, a medical resident, a son, a husband and a father, and as a terminally ill patient. He does this with

The Death of Truth

Kakutani, Michiko

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8/27/18

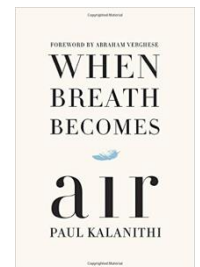


When Breath Becomes Air

Kalanithi, Paul

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2/5/16



passion and beauty as his life ends. Any reader who thinks at all about life and death will be moved by this finely written book and will reflect about the meaning of life.

<p><u>Enemy of the People: Trump's War on the Press, the New McCarthyism, and the Threat to American Democracy</u></p>	<p>Kalb, Marvin</p>	<p>****</p>	<p><u>3/18/19</u></p> <p><b>Sobering.</b> Journalist Marvin Kalb has written a sober and passionate book about the importance of a free press in his book titled, <u>Enemy of the People: Trump's War on the Press, the New McCarthyism, and the Threat to American Democracy</u>. Kalb calls Trump, not the press, the real enemy of the people. Using his personal experience as a foreign correspondent in Russia, and his experience during the McCarthy investigations, Kalb reinforces that a free press is the best guarantor of a free society, and efforts to suppress the press are despotic acts, not the signs of a thriving democratic system. Words matter and leadership can influence public views for better or for worse. Readers interested in public policy and the state of our democracy and its threats should consider reading this measured comparison of our current situation to the ideals we hold.</p>	
<p>A Disorder Peculiar to the Country</p>	<p>Kalfus, Ken</p>	<p>Unread</p>	<p>Shelf of Ennui 2007</p>	
<p><u>Equilateral</u></p>	<p>Kalfus, Ken</p>	<p>****</p>	<p><u>5/10/13</u></p> <p><b>Clever.</b> I read Ken Kalfus' 200-page novel, <u>Equilateral</u>, in a single sitting on my screened porch. As I set it aside, my first thought was "that was clever," and the first thing I did was look to the skies. Protagonist Thayer is a British astronomer who embarks on a massive project in the desert to dig a triangle that could be visible from Mars once it is set ablaze. This will be an invitation to the sentient lives on Mars, who must have built those</p>	



				Martian canals, to visit Earth. On one level, that's the plot. Kalfus gives readers so much more. This is also comic social commentary and a study in colonization, hubris, exploitation and the domination of economic interests over everything else. Kalfus crafts a fine work in this novel that almost demands a second reading, for another day.	
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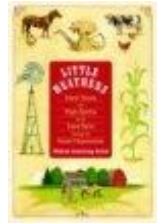
Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression

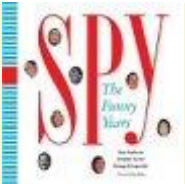
Kalish, Mildred  
Armstrong

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Sep 07

**Formative.** Finely written memoir about growing up on an Iowa farm during the Depression, with insights for all readers on the formation of sound character.



Spy: The Funny Years	Kalogerakis, George	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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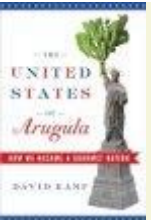
The Secret Life of Houdini

Kalush, William

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



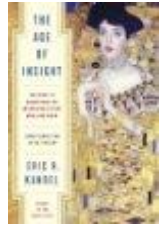
The United States of Arugula	Kamp, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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The Age of Insight: The Quest to Understand the Unconscious in Art, Mind, and Brain, from Vienna 1900 to the Present

Kandel, Eric R.

Unread

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

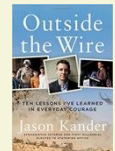


[Outside the Wire: Ten Lessons I've Learned in Everyday Courage](#)

Kander, Jason

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



[Human Acts](#)

Kang, Han

\*\*\*\*\*

[3/2/17](#)

**Uprising.** It is through the stories of the experiences of other people that we can learn about ourselves and can appreciate how much we have in common with others. In her novel titled, [Human Acts](#), Han Kang tells the story of the 1980 uprising in Gwangju, South Korea. Teenager Dong-ho tries to find the body of a missing friend amid the many dead bodies piled up in the street following the uprising. When Dong-ho refuses to go home, he is killed. Kang moves forward and backward in time to explore the uprising from multiple points of view as she explores the range of emotions and reactions to this event. Her lyrical prose contrasts with the story of oppression. Readers who enjoy finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.



[The Vegetarian](#)

Kang, Han

\*\*\*\*\*

[8/4/16](#)

**Dreams.** Han Kang's novel, [The Vegetarian](#), came to my attention after it won the 2016 Man Booker Prize. Having read the book, I now understand why this finely written novel won the prize. Protagonist Yeong-hye has been having dreams of violence and blood, and she attempts to cleanse herself by no



			<p>longer eating meat. Her refusal to eat meat disrupts many of her relationships as her husband and other family members attempt to control her. Kang explores violence in this novel, from multiple perspectives, as well as the issues of power and control. The images that Kang offers are often disturbing and always powerful. This is an unusual and dark novel, very finely written, and packed with insights about the impact of dreams on reality.</p> <p><b>Meditation.</b> Take a breath. Relax. Feel your heart rate drop. Listen to your regular breathing. Once you've reached a calm rhythm, open a copy of Han Kang's novel titled, <a href="#">The White Book</a>, and calmly mediate with her as she riffs on the color white and explores loss and grief. Let your own memories become triggered by this prose and remember in a gentle way. As all the white images drift by, reflect on the fragility of life. Let the words of this finely written book reach you deeply. If any of that sounds like time well spent, by all means read this book.</p>	
<a href="#">The White Book</a>	Kang, Han	*****	<a href="#">8/15/19</a>	
<a href="#">Defectors</a>	Kanon, Joseph	*****	<a href="#">2/9/18</a>	

Istanbul  
Passage

Kanon, Joseph

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



[Leaving Berlin](#)

Kanon, Joseph

\*\*\*\*\*

[12/18/15](#)

**Spies.** Fans of espionage novels are those readers most likely to enjoy Joseph Kanon's finely written novel titled, [Leaving Berlin](#). Set in Berlin at the end of the 1940s, there are alliances, connections, betrayals, spies, coffees and a mood that ties everything to that time and that place. Protagonist Alex Meier fled the Nazis for the United States, where he found new trouble, and now returns to Berlin. I was entertained from beginning to end, and thanks to Kanon, Berlin of that time became so vivid, it was almost another character in the novel.



[The Accomplice](#)

Kanon, Joseph

\*\*\*\*\*

[12/16/19](#)

**Betrayal.** There's a quest for justice at the heart of Joseph Kanon's novel titled, [The Accomplice](#). Protagonist Aaron Wiley picks up the trail of a Nazi war criminal in South America and faces challenges in achieving justice. Aaron may not be able to proceed the way his Uncle Max desired before he died, and wonders if he is betraying his uncle. The criminal's daughter faces choices of loyalty and betrayal as well. With fine writing and great psychological insight, Kanon offers readers an engaging and complicated story about human behavior and the choices we make.

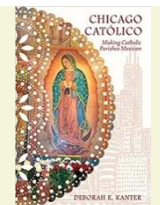


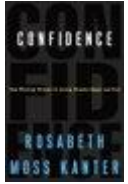
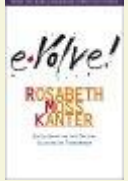
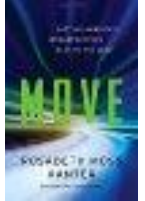
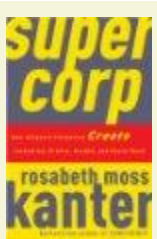

[Chicago Católico: Making Catholic Parishes Mexican](#)

Kanter, Deborah E.

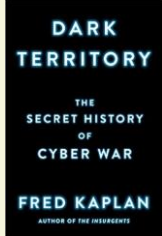
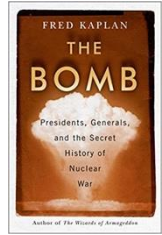


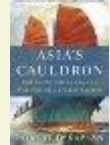
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Shelf of Ennui 2020.

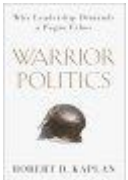
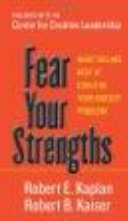
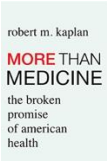
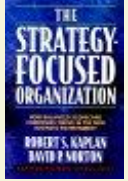


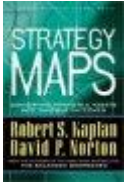
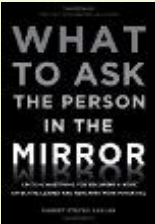

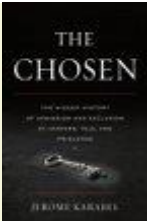
<u>Confidence</u>	Kanter, Rosabeth Moss	***	<u>Jan 05</u>	<b>Cycles.</b> Winners tend to win and losers tend to lose, so try not to lose twice in a row. Beyond that insight, Kanter gives good sports stories and some tools for executives to implement winning habits and shed losing habits.	
<u>Evolve! Succeeding in the Digital Culture of Tomorrow</u>	Kanter, Rosabeth Moss	***	<u>06/01</u>	Stories about three-dozen companies and how they are changing. <a href="#">Read longer review.</a>	
Move: Putting America's Infrastructure Back in the Lead	Kanter, Rosabeth Moss	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
SuperCorp: How Vanguard Companies Create Innovation, Profits, Growth, and Social Good	Kanter, Rosabeth Moss	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<u>She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement</u>	Kantor, Jodi and Megan Twohey	*****	<u>11/21/19</u>	<b>Process.</b> Investigative journalists Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey describe in their book titled, <a href="#">She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement</a> , the process they followed in revealing sexual harassment by Harvey Weinstein. Most of us are aware of the outline of their story, and this book shows how the story was built one interview at a time, and one research investigation at a time. Whether you think you know a lot or a little about the job of a journalist, this book shows what the work entails, and uses a prominent story as a way to reveal the hard work and diligence it takes to run down a story, as well as the resources required and the willingness to follow	

the story wherever it goes. In the case of the authors, they had the full support of *The New York Times* as they carried out their work. I was amazed at the efforts Weinstein took to kill their story. I strongly recommend reading this finely written book and then subscribing to quality periodicals that generate the resources to pursue stories effectively.

<a href="#"><u>Dark Territory: The Secret History of Cyber War</u></a>	Kaplan, Fred	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<a href="#"><u>The Bomb: Presidents, Generals, and the Secret History of Nuclear War</u></a>	Kaplan, Fred	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
When the Astors Owned New York	Kaplan, Justin	*		Read, but not reviewed.	
<a href="#"><u>F'd Companies: Spectaculr dot-com flameouts</u></a>	Kaplan, Philip J.	DNR	<a href="#"><u>Sep 02</u></a>	Superficial chronicle of stupid things companies did by author with juvenile potty mouth writing style.	
Asia's Cauldron: The South China Sea and the End	Kaplan, Robert D.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	



of a Stable Pacific					
<u>Warrior Politics: Why Leadership Demands a Pagan Ethos</u>	Kaplan, Robert D.	**	<u>Apr 02</u>	150-page timely and thoughtful essay on how the lessons of the past via the likes of Machiavelli, Hobbes and Kant, influences how America conducts itself with global adversaries.	
Fear Your Strengths: What You Are Best at Could Be Your Biggest Problem	Kaplan, Robert E. and Robert B. Kaiser	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>More Than Medicine: The Broken Promise of American Health</u>	Kaplan, Robert M.	****	<u>7/3/19</u>	<b>Evidence.</b> Any reader interested in the subject of healthcare in the United States should consider reading Robert Kaplan's book titled, <u>More Than Medicine: The Broken Promise of American Health</u> . Kaplan's premise is that it's time to rethink healthcare. Instead of overspending as we do in attacking disease after it arrives, we should invest in reducing the occurrence of disease. He calls on those setting public policy to respect the evidence and take actions that foster health.	
<u>The Strategy-Focused Organization: How Balanced Scorecard Companies Thrive in the New Business Environment</u>	Kaplan, Robert S.	****	<u>10/01</u>	Best articulation of the Balanced Scorecard so far. Replete with clear examples.	

Strategy maps : converting intangible assets into tangible outcomes	Kaplan, Robert S. and David P. Norton	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2005	
What to Ask the Person in the Mirror: Critical Questions for Becoming a More Effective Leader and Reaching Your Potential	Kaplan, Robert Steven	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
Travels with Herodotus	Kapuscinski, Ryszard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
The Chosen	Karabel, Jerome	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

Front Row at  
the Trump Show

Karl, Jonathan


\*\*\*\*


8/5/20


**Observer.** ABC News' Chief White House correspondent Jonathan Karl has written a book titled, Front Row at the Trump Show. Karl's contact with Trump goes back to New York City when the two men were in different roles. From that foundation, Karl offers what he has observed over decades about the relationship between Donald Trump and the media. For those readers interested in contemporary politics, Karl's book offers a closely observed view of Trump and the White



House. The anecdotes related in the book are interesting and the author's perspective valuable in gaining insight about the current U.S. President.

<a href="#"><u>Life 2.0 : how people across America are transforming their lives by finding the where of their happiness</u></a>	Karlgaard, Rich	***	<a href="#"><u>Nov 04</u></a>	Drummers. Novice small plane pilot and <i>Forbes</i> publisher Karlgaard travels across America to introduce readers to people who live in locations that may seem unusual for many readers but create ways of living large for the subjects.	
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<a href="#"><u>The Invoice</u></a>	Karlsson, Jonas	*****	<a href="#"><u>9/23/16</u></a>	<b>Accounting.</b> What's in your wallet? What makes you happy? Jonas Karlsson explores the subject of happiness in his novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Invoice</u></a> . An entity named World Resources Distribution has sent invoices to every citizen. The amount due reflects an accounting of the individual's experienced happiness quotient. The happier one's life has been, the larger sum that is due. The protagonist in the novel has received a huge bill and he has no ability to pay the bill. When he protests the invoice, an examination of his life leads to a new computation, reflecting that his happiness has been so great that his invoice was originally too small, not too large. Readers of this novel will never again think of the cost of living in the same way. Most readers will also reflect on one's own happiness long after the last page of the novel has been turned. I found this novel to be clever, thought-provoking and compact enough to read in one or two sittings, and I highly recommend it to any reader who enjoys a blend of creativity, humor and profundity.	
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Ultra Marathon Man: Memoir Of An Extreme Endurance Athlete	Karnazes, Dean	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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The Maze

Karnezis, Panos

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



[Cherry](#)

Karr, Mary

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Memoir of coming of age in Houston. Parents of adolescents will enjoy, as will baby boomer contemporaries of the author.



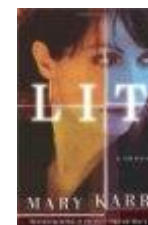
[Lit: A Memoir](#)

Karr, Mary

\*\*\*\*

[4/8/10](#)

**Recovery.** Mary Karr's new memoir, [Lit](#), continues to tell in finely crafted language the story of her dysfunctional life. I found myself rapidly turning these pages as she falls under the spell of alcoholism and eventually marches down the road to recovery. Hers is a lively story, packed with a bounty of issues and relationships, past and present. Smart, troubled artists can captivate our attention. In [Lit](#), Karr does that in a masterly way, and I found that in some ways as she began recovery, I felt a restoration of my own.



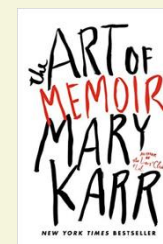
[The Art of Memoir](#)

Karr, Mary

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[2/15/16](#)

**Specialty.** Mary Karr is a great writer and acclaimed teacher, and she offers both those skills to readers of her book titled, [The Art of Memoir](#). For anyone interested in writing a memoir, this book will provide either encouragement or despair. For those readers who love fine writing, this book offers insight into why the memoir can be a success or a failure. I read this quickly and came away with this conclusion for me: I like to read Karr's memoirs more than I like to absorb her lessons.



[Make Your Own Luck: Success Tactics You Won't Learn in Business School](#)

Kash, Peter Morgan

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[Jun 02](#)

Motivational stories from Kash's life and others. Interesting and upbeat. Good section on values.



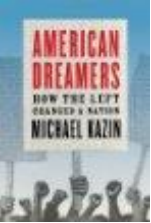


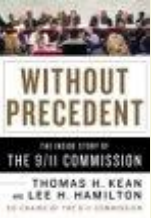
<a href="#"><u>The Taker</u></a>	Katsu, Alma	***	9/14/11	<p><b>Story.</b> Over almost 450 pages of her debut novel, <a href="#"><u>The Taker</u></a>, Alma Katsu weaves a good story that kept me interested throughout. I closed the book with the feeling that character development was weak, and the supernatural elements may appeal best to those readers who enjoy tales outside the scope of one's own experience. At its heart, this novel is a love story injected with betrayal and redemption. Katsu's prose presents vivid descriptions of past and present settings. Readers willing to take a chance on a new author, and those who like imaginative fiction in the spirit of Edgar Allen Poe will find this novel to be a good choice.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Impeach: The Case Against Donald Trump</u></a>	Katyal, Neal	*****	1/24/20	<p><b>Foreign.</b> Neal Katyal is a Georgetown law professor who has represented both the United States and individual clients at the Supreme Court. Readers of his book titled, <a href="#"><u>Impeach: The Case Against Donald Trump</u></a>, may doubt his non-partisan claim at the beginning of the book, but those who read to the end, including the appendix, are likely to come away with a greater appreciation of the Constitution, the intentions of the Founders, and why the "perfect" phone call between Presidents Trump and Zelensky documents the kind of offense that merits the pursuit of impeachment and removal because of the specific request for foreign help by President Trump not to support the interests of the United States, but to assist in a re-election campaign. Katyal describes why the Founders were concerned with foreign interference, and why the impeachment remedy is appropriate, and why waiting for the next election is not appropriate. Open minded and informed citizens can read this short book and become better informed about what is at stake in 2020.</p>	

<a href="#"><u>Dog Days: Dispatches from Bedlam Farm</u></a>	Katz, Jon	***	<a href="#"><u>Mar 08</u></a>	<b>Harmony.</b> Not just a dog story, but graceful writing about the search for harmony among people, animals, and with the land on a farm in upstate New York.	
Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time	Katznelson, Ira	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<a href="#"><u>The Gunners</u></a>	Kauffman, Rebecca	***	<a href="#"><u>6/2/18</u></a>	<b>Friends.</b> In a novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Gunners</u></a> , by Rebecca Kauffman, childhood friends who formed a close-knit group reunite in their early thirties. Through the combination of an intense weekend together when they return to Lackawanna for the funeral of a group member who committed suicide and flashbacks to their childhood, Kauffman develops each character and tells their individual and shared stories, revealing surprises for these friends. Initial impressions of these individuals change during the course of the novel, often in surprising ways, and the power of memories that lasted decades packs a wallop.	
<a href="#"><u>The Fall of Wisconsin: The Conservative Conquest of a Progressive Bastion and the Future of American Politics</u></a>	Kaufman, Dan K.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	



<a href="#"><u>Of Money and Markets: A Wall Street Memoir</u></a>	Kaufman, Henry	****	<a href="#"><u>8/00</u></a>	Economic history at its best. Kaufman's writing is careful and clear. Highly recommended.	
<a href="#"><u>Soros: The Life and Times of a Messianic Billionaire</u></a>	Kaufman, Michael T.	***	<a href="#"><u>Oct 02</u></a>	<b>Applied Philosophy.</b> All his life, Soros tried to apply a philosophy that he was also refining and defining. Kaufman takes readers on a journey that observes and explores this complicated man, and creates the image of a complex and complicated character.	
<a href="#"><u>Zed</u></a>	Kavenna, Joanna	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<a href="#"><u>The Long Room</u></a>	Kay, Francesca	***	<a href="#"><u>3/23/17</u></a>	<b>Listeners.</b> Patient readers are those most likely to enjoy reading Francesca Kay's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Long Room</u></a> . This book is a character study of protagonist Stephen Donaldson who works as a listener for a British spy agency called the Institute. He and his workplace colleagues are divided into units and work in a long room. His obsession with the wife of a subject of his listening breaks him away from his numbing routine and leads him eventually to a radical change in his life. The pacing of the novel is often very slow, and some readers will long for more action and momentum. I found Kay's insight into the mind of this interesting character brought me satisfaction enough to offset some tedium.	

<a href="#"><u>Other People's Money: The Real Business of Finance</u></a>	Kay, John	*****	<a href="#"><u>11/20/15</u></a>	<p><b>Vision.</b> Any reader with an interest in finance and a belief in the power of ideas should read John Kay's finely written book titled, <a href="#"><u>Other People's Money: The Real Business of Finance</u></a>. Kay presents a vision to restructure the finance industry summarized as follows: "It is time to get back to work: the serious and responsible business of managing other people's money." Kay's perspective shows how finance has strayed in recent decades, and he proposes the following: "It is possible to have a smaller, simpler financial services system that is better adapted to the needs of the non-financial economy – to achieve an efficient payment system, effective capital allocation, greater economic stability, security in planning and managing our personal finances and justified confidence in the people who advise us." (p.290) I enjoyed Kay's clear thinking and cogent writing.</p>	
The Confidence Code: The Science and Art of Self-Assurance---What Women Should Know	Kay, Katty and Claire Shipman	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<a href="#"><u>Thomas Paine and the Promise of America</u></a>	Kaye, Harvey J.	***	<a href="#"><u>Oct 05</u></a>	<p><b>Aspirations.</b> Despite recent quotes from Paine used by those who disagree with his politics, readers of this work will realize that much of what was radical about freedom and equality in the 18<sup>th</sup> century remains radical today, and the promise of America remains attainable.</p>	

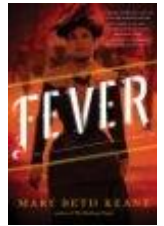
American Dreamers: How the Left Changed a Nation	Kazin, Michael	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements	Kean, Sam	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
The Tale of the Dueling Neurosurgeons: The History of the Human Brain as Revealed by True Stories of Trauma, Madness, and Recovery	Kean, Sam	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<a href="#"><u>Without Precedent: The Inside Story of the 9/11 Commission</u></a>	Kean, Thomas H., and Lee. H. Hamilton	***	<a href="#"><u>Nov 06</u></a>	<b>Processes.</b> Co-chairs of 9/11 commission tell how they got their work done: in public, behind the scenes, and in the media. Fingers pointed directly at those who blocked or delayed the work.	

Fever

Keane, Mary  
Beth

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



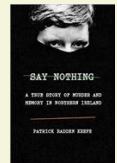
[Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland](#)

Keefe, Patrick  
Radden

\*\*\*\*

[8/27/19](#)

**Troubles.** Patrick Radden Keefe has written a compelling history of the troubles in Northern Ireland titled, [Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland](#). Keefe uses the story of Jean McConville, a mother of ten, to pull readers away from cold facts about the conflict and into the human impact on particular people. Filled with personal stories, betrayals and violence, this book covers both the past and the present with skill and insight. With Jean McConville in our minds from the early part of the book, Keefe uses the bulk of the book to elaborate on the actions of leaders including Gerry Adams and Margaret Thatcher. When I read about the recordings at Boston College that were made with an expectation of secrecy but were released to be used in criminal prosecutions, I saw one more dimension of betrayal long after the conflict ended. Interested readers should zip through this book quickly as a foundation of knowledge for whatever happens should Brexit proceed and the hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland is restored.

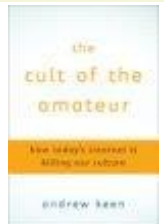


The Cult of the  
Amateur

Keen, Andrew

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



The Internet Is Not the Answer	Keen, Andrew	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
Measuring the World	Kehlmann, Daniel	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
<u>Tyll</u>	Kehlmann, Daniel	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>You Should Have Left</u>	Kehlmann, Daniel	****	<u>10/13/17</u>	<b>Spooky.</b> Most readers can complete reading Daniel Kehlmann's novel titled, <u>You Should Have Left</u> , in a single sitting, unless it's a dark Halloween night, and you're a little spooked already, or if you are staying in an old house that makes a lot of sounds at night. Then, stop reading and wait for the light of day to finish this finely written story of a family spending seven days in a house rented online. As the title indicates, they have been warned away from this house, and as one would anticipate with horror tales, they do not listen. Don't read alone.	
Flea Circus: A Brief Bestiary of Grief	Keifetz, Mandy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	

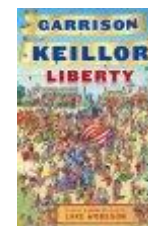
[Liberty: A Lake Wobegon Novel](#)

Keillor, Garrison

\*\*\*

[Dec 08](#)

**Constraints.** While not as funny as earlier novels, this one encourages us to laugh at ourselves and the constraints we create on our own and in our relationships.



[Love Me](#)

Keillor, Garrison

\*\*

[Oct 03](#)

**Ups and Downs.** Spotty novel of Minnesota writer who produces a hit, moves to New York, and discovers failure. Touching at times, hilarious now and again, tedious after a while.



Pilgrims: A Wobegon Romance

Keillor, Garrison

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010



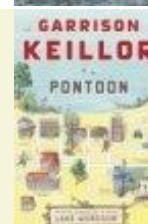
[Pontoon: A Novel of Lake Wobegon](#)

Keillor, Garrison

\*\*\*

[Mar 08](#)

**Foibles.** Freed from the constraints of radio episodes, Keillor can expand with abandon on the foibles of human behavior. This novel is a celebration of living life to the fullest, no matter where that leads us.



[Comedy in a Minor Key](#)

Keilson, Hans

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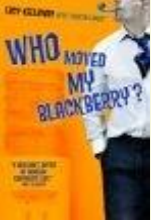
[5/29/11](#)

**Refuge.** Even the busiest reader who has no time for a novel can spend a few minutes reading a finely written novel by Hans Keilson titled, [Comedy in a Minor Key](#). This closely written short novel was first published in 1947, and the first English translation came out last year. Set in Holland during World War II, Keilson tells of a young couple who hid a Jewish perfume salesman in their house to avoid Nazi persecution. His refuge becomes their new life, and turns ironic when he dies, and they realize they have become vulnerable themselves. Much of life can be absurd, and Keilson captures the nuances







with precision in this finely written novel, as timely now as it was sixty years ago.

<a href="#"><u>Who Moved My BlackBerry?</u></a>	Kellaway, Lucy	***	<a href="#"><u>July 06</u></a>	<p><b>Officious.</b> Author provides book length version of her funny <i>Financial Times</i> column, and takes readers on a year-long fad hopping trip with Martin Lukes, a version of whom can be found in any office.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>A Killing in the Hills</u></a>	Keller, Julia	***	<a href="#"><u>8/21/12</u></a>	<p><b>Unraveling.</b> Mystery readers are likely to love three things about Julia Keller's debut novel, <a href="#"><u>A Killing in the Hills</u></a>: well-developed characters; descriptive setting that comes alive through finely written prose; and the expectation that this will be the first in a series featuring protagonist Bell Elkins. In this novel, Elkins' teenaged daughter, Carla, witnesses a triple homicide. Because of her role as county prosecutor, Bell has both a professional and personal stake in how the crime gets solved. Keller uses the backdrop of the West Virginia hills as a context for the ups and downs in this mother-daughter relationship, and to keep the tension of the story taut. Readers willing to give debut novels a shot should move this one toward the top of the list.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Bitter River</u></a>	Keller, Julia	****	<a href="#"><u>1/6/14</u></a>	<p><b>Loyalty.</b> The second novel by Julia Keller to feature Bell Elkins, the prosecuting attorney of Raythune County, West Virginia, is titled, <a href="#"><u>Bitter River</u></a>. Many of the interesting characters in this novel exhibit loyalty, especially to family members. Mystery lovers will enjoy the red herrings that Keller dangles before readers, and this novel will also appeal to those readers who are unhurried and enjoy getting to know the characters and the setting of a novel. Keller excels at these three elements: character, setting and continuity with the previous novel in this series. While either novel can be read on its own, readers of both can enjoy the</p>	

				connections and continuity. I've enjoyed Keller's writing, and look forward to the next novel in this series. I've become as loyal as some of her characters.	
<a href="#"><u>Bone on Bone</u></a>	Keller, Julia	****	<a href="#"><u>1/9/19</u></a>	<p><b>Epidemic.</b> The eighth novel by Julia Keller featuring protagonist Bell Elkins is titled, <a href="#"><u>Bone on Bone</u></a>. Fans of the series will look forward to how the former prosecutor will return to life in Acker's Gap following her incarceration. What Bell finds is a community ravaged by drug addiction. Keller approaches this theme with insight and sensitivity, continuing to develop this protagonist's complexity and humanity. Fans will be rewarded by the revelation of a long-held secret by the novel's end. Along the way, Bell plays a part in helping her community with the drug epidemic.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Fast Falls the Night</u></a>	Keller, Julia	****	<a href="#"><u>6/2/18</u></a>	<p><b>Overdose.</b> In the sixth installment of the Bell Elkins series by Julia Keller, a novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Fast Falls the Night</u></a>, the author turns her focus to the drug problem in Acker's Gap, West Virginia. Most of the tension in the novel involves trying to track down the source of a batch of tainted heroin that's killing people. Bell is also considering an offer to leave town and join a law firm. Keller leaves readers with a cliffhanger, so fans will anxiously await another installment to find out what happens.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Last Ragged Breath</u></a>	Keller, Julia	****	<a href="#"><u>2/25/16</u></a>	<p><b>Coal.</b> Julia Keller plays me like a fiddle. Just when I expected that the fourth installment in her Bell Elkins series of mystery novels set in West Virginia would be on cruise control, Keller offers her best novel yet titled, <a href="#"><u>Last Ragged Breath</u></a>. Having proven how well she does character, plot and descriptive language that keeps an intelligent reader engaged, she finally reveals the story of coal in this part of the world. She does it ruthlessly and with great skill, approaching a preachy tone only once or twice. She really finds a way to express what home</p>	

can mean, and how callous behavior by companies can destroy communities. Readers of the series will likely love this one, and new readers can either start here or read from the beginning.

<a href="#"><u>Sorrow Road</u></a>	Keller, Julia	***	<a href="#"><u>12/9/16</u></a>	<p><b>Secrets.</b> The fifth novel in the series by Julia Keller featuring protagonist Bell Elkins is titled, <a href="#"><u>Sorrow Road</u></a>. Fans of the series will enjoy the reprisal of familiar characters, but may find a little less of Bell in this installment than in earlier novels. Keller covers that void with a plot covering two time periods and a broad exploration of the issues of memory and remembrance. Set as always in Acker's Gap, West Virginia, the location comes alive thanks to Keller's descriptive language. Readers who like mysteries are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel and this series.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>Summer of the Dead</u></a>	Keller, Julia	****	<a href="#"><u>9/26/14</u></a>	<p><b>Relatives.</b> The third crime novel by Julia Keller to feature protagonist Bell Elkins is titled, <a href="#"><u>Summer of the Dead</u></a>. Bell is the Raythyne County prosecutor, and there's a killing spree going on in Acker's Gap, West Virginia. If that weren't enough, her sister Shirley has come to live with Bell after her release from prison. Elkins is one of those strong female protagonists whose character deepens with each installment in the series. In this novel, her memories of childhood abuse come to the surface, and Keller is able to delve into the ways in which relatives can treat each other with cruelty as well as with great love. As a standalone crime thriller, most readers will find the plot exciting. As an installment in the series, fans will enjoy the progress made in this installment and look forward to the next. I enjoyed reading this novel, as I did the earlier novels in the series.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>The Cold Way Home</u></a>	Keller, Julia	****	<a href="#"><u>9/24/19</u></a>	<p><b>Secrets.</b> The eighth installment of Julia Keller's series of books featuring protagonist Bell Elkins is a novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Cold Way Home</u></a>. Set as always in the small town of Acker's Gap, West Virginia, where news spreads at the speed of light, fans will delight in the return to this place and to the reprise of the familiar cast of characters. Keller delves into the past and focuses attention on a long-closed local state mental hospital called Wellwood. While Bell is looking for a missing girl on the grounds of Wellwood, she uncovers a dead body. What follows involves what happened at Wellwood in the past and the secrets that remained buried for years. Readers who like character-driven crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p>	
The End of Leadership	Kellerman, Barbara	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<a href="#"><u>The Art of Innovation</u></a>	Kelley, Tom	****	<a href="#"><u>04/01</u></a>	You, too, can learn how to innovate by reading this interesting book by a managing director of the award winning design firm, IDEO.	
<a href="#"><u>The Ten Faces of Innovation</u></a>	Kelley, Tom	***	<a href="#"><u>Feb 06</u></a>	<p><b>Personas.</b> More IDEO methods to increase innovation. This time, how an individual can assume one of ten roles that helps foster faster and better innovation.</p>	

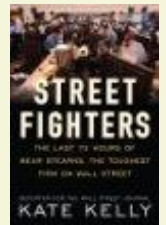
Street Fighters: The Last 72 Hours of Bear Stearns, the Toughest Firm on Wall Street

Kelly, Kate

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7/25/09

**Denial.** Kate Kelly expanded her 2008 reporting on the fall of Bear Stearns for *The Wall Street Journal* into a book titled Street Fighters: The Last 72 Hours of Bear Stearns, the Toughest Firm on Wall Street. The hour-by-hour structure of the book increases the intensity of the action Kelly describes. The context she creates by references to earlier times allows the tension to relax periodically. Throughout, Kelly highlights the many ways in which CEO Alan Schwartz and Chairman Jimmy Cayne ignored or denied the gravity of the situation the company was in. By the time reality sank in, there were few options remaining. Kelly dedicates the book to the 14,000 people who worked for Bear Stearns, and those potential readers won't like a lot of her explanation of what happened. The rapid demise of Bear was surprising at the time, and understandable in the context that Kelly presents. I wanted to learn more about many of the conversations that Kelly referenced as happening, but doesn't elaborate. While JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon seemed to be on the phone constantly about a deal, Kelly doesn't provide much insight into the details. I wondered a lot about the progression of Dimon's conversations, especially with Tim Geithner. Nonetheless, Street Fighters provides fast reading about the final hours of a once-successful company, and most readers will find the story captivating.



Endurance: A Year in Space, A Lifetime of Discovery

Kelly, Scott


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3/3/18


**Choppy.** Astronaut Scott Kelly presents two narratives in his book titled, Endurance: A Year in Space, A Lifetime of Discovery. A main part of the narrative explores the full year that he spent on the International Space Station. The second narrative is a memoir of his full life. Kelly shares all the big and small details of living for a year in space and makes that experience come alive. The memoir has an “aw

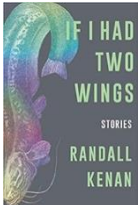


shucks” quality to it that could lead many readers to think that if he could turn his life around and get one of the toughest and most competitive jobs in the world, so can any one of us.

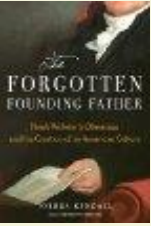
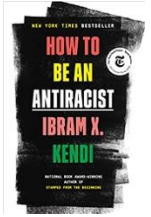
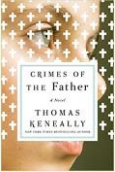
Empire Rising	Kelly, Thomas	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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Arguing the Just War in Islam	Kelsay, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
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<u>Marguerite</u>	Kemp, Marina	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
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<u>If I Had Two Wings</u>	Kenan, Randall	*****	<u>11/24/20</u>	<p><b>Authenticity.</b> Readers who enjoy finely written short stories are those most likely to enjoy the collection by Randall Kenan titled, <u>If I Had Two Wings</u>. Set mostly in a fictional North Carolina town, the ten stories present interesting and complex characters, full of life, and behaving in ways that are totally true to themselves. Over the course of just a few pages, Kenan enlivens his prose with finely chosen words, and pulls readers into authentic lives with great efficiency and skill. There’s humor, invention, and overall empathy for how we make our way in the world.</p>	
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The Forgotten Founding Father: Noah Webster's Obsession and the Creation of an American Culture	Kendall, Joshua	Unread		After I read the prologue, Kendall had me convinced: I really don't care about Noah Webster and there was no reason to read the book about this arrogant man who was obsessed with the written word. Maybe Webster was forgotten for a reason. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	
<a href="#">How to Be an Antiracist</a>	Kendi, Ibram X.	*****	<a href="#">11/9/20</a>	<b>Awakening.</b> If very few, if any, citizens consider themselves racist, why are so many individuals treated as less than fully human because of their race? In his book titled, <a href="#">How to Be an Antiracist</a> , Ibram X. Kendi helps all citizens examine our social constructs, the power dynamics in society, and our individual and collective mindsets. Close readers will experience an awakening of some sort, leading perhaps to a different way forward for all of us.	
<a href="#">Crimes of the Father</a>	Keneally, Thomas	*****	<a href="#">11/6/17</a>	<b>Victims.</b> Is it too soon for a novel whose subject is the clerical sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church? Thomas Keneally thought not and wrote <a href="#">Crimes of the Father</a> , a novel set in Sydney Australia in two alternating time segments: the 1970s and 1996. Protagonist Father Frank Docherty was born in Australia, joined a religious order there and was ordained a priest. Following his preaching in the 1970s against the Vietnam War, the archbishop wanted him out of the country, so his order transferred him to Canada where he became a psychologist and teacher. He returns to Sydney in 1996 to give a speech to clerics about sexual abuse, and to visit his ill mother. Both victims of abuse and priests aware of the crimes of fellow priests take Frank into their confidence. Keneally develops all the characters with skill, especially the victims, and by setting the time period when he did, we can see the emergence of attention to the abuse scandal.	

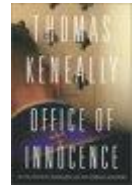
Office of Innocence

Keneally, Thomas

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Oct 03

Thoughtful. Keneally reveals the flaws of human nature in multiple characters of this well-written novel, calling our attention to who is innocent and who is not.



The Daughters of Mars

Keneally, Thomas

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.

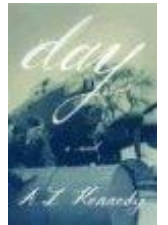


Day

Kennedy, A.L.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



The Blue Book

Kennedy, A.L.

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5/3/13

**Voyage.** My patience was strained to its limits as I read A.L. Kennedy's The Blue Book. I was getting a headache trying to figure out what was going on. Set on a transatlantic ocean liner, the narrator is a woman on a voyage with her fiancée when she encounters a former lover and fellow con artist. After I set the book aside to let my headache subside, I eased back into the voyage, leaving myself in Kennedy's hands. I enjoyed much of the finely written prose, and found some parts witty. By the end, I was glad to have finished the novel, and felt somewhat accomplished in that I made it to the end of the book without an additional headache by no longer trying to dissect the stream of narrative. This novel will appeal most to patient readers of literary fiction who are comfortable with confusion and uncertainty.



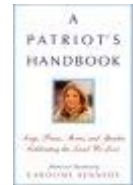
[A Patriot's Handbook: Songs, Poems, Stories and Speeches Celebrating the Land We Love](#)

Kennedy,  
Caroline

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[July 03](#)

**Salute.** Just the right resource book to fill a space on your bookshelf. A comprehensive collection that's inspiring and thought-provoking, whether you're happy or depressed about life in these United States.



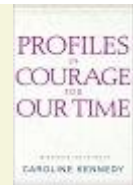
[Profiles in Courage for Our Time](#)

Kennedy,  
Caroline

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[Aug 02](#)

Fourteen essays about Profiles in Courage award winners. Some will bring tears to your eyes; all will inspire you.



Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life with John F. Kennedy

Kennedy,  
Caroline and  
Michael  
Beschloss

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2012.

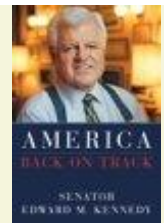


America Back on Track

Kennedy,  
Edward M.

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Read, but not reviewed.



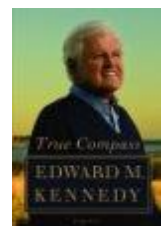
[True Compass](#)

Kennedy,  
Edward M.

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[2/19/10](#)

**Perseverance.** I read memoirs for two reasons: to gain insight about our human condition through the lives of others, and to learn something about an individual who is interesting and engaging. Ted Kennedy's memoir, [True Compass](#), provides reading pleasure on both fronts. As to insight, this memoir presents ample examples of the ways in which perseverance builds character: every time Ted was knocked down, he got up again. His resilience and hard work appear throughout the memoir. The extended Kennedy family lives with



intense public attention and scrutiny, and [True Compass](#) provides an inside perspective on how that played out over a lifetime. Sailing and the sea feature prominently throughout Ted's life and in this memoir. The lion of the Senate lived a full, rich and imperfect life. Reading his story from his point of view brings to life dramatic moments in modern American history and allows all readers to increase their understanding of this person and those times.

**Marriage.** Eliza Kennedy's debut novel, [I Take You](#), is not the book to give your mother for her birthday. Unless, of course, your mother is slutty and unfaithful, and likes novels packed with immoral behavior. I, though, am not your mother, and I found this novel to be hilarious. Protagonist Lily Wilder, a lawyer, is marrying Will, an archaeologist. The action begins six days before the wedding, and Lily can't stop sleeping with men other than Will. The action kicks up a notch when her multiple step-mothers arrive on the scene, and Lily has to take a deposition in an important case. By the time Lily's grandmother arrives, I couldn't stop laughing. There are about a dozen candidates for president who would condemn this book, so if that's not recommendation enough for you, take my advice: give this debut novelist a chance and ready this funny and subversive novel.



[I Take You](#)

Kennedy, Eliza

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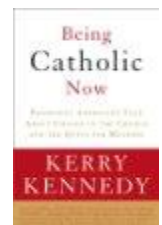
[8/25/15](#)

Being Catholic  
Now: Prominent  
Americans Talk  
About Change in  
the Church and  
the Quest for  
Meaning

Kennedy, Kerry

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Read and not reviewed.



Without a Net	Kennedy, Michelle	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>A Common Struggle: A Personal Journey Through the Past and Future of Mental Illness and Addiction</u>	Kennedy, Patrick J.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
The Parliament of Man	Kennedy, Paul	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<u>Presidio</u>	Kennedy, Randy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>In the Company of Angels</u>	Kennedy, Thomas E.	***	<u>4/8/10</u>	<b>Freedom.</b> Thomas Kennedy's novel, <u>In the Company of Angels</u> , has finally been published in the United States. I can't recall the last time I read as finely written a novel whose characters are as wounded as those in this book. Set in Copenhagen, Nardo is in a long term therapeutic recovery from torture in Chile. Michela has suffered physical abuse and the loss of a child. As each struggles with the effects of brutality, Nardo and Michela feel the glimmers of what freedom might be like. Their	

				relationship and others are explored with great care. Readers who appreciate good writing and who want to spend some hours immersed in the lives of deeply troubled people are likely to enjoy this novel.	
Kerrigan in Copenhagen	Kennedy, Thomas E.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<a href="#"><u>Chango's Beads and Two-Tone Shoes</u></a>	Kennedy, William	***	<a href="#"><u>12/11/11</u></a>	<b>Revolution.</b> Only a writer as skilled as William Kennedy could pack so much into the three hundred well written pages of his new novel, <a href="#"><u>Chango's Beads and Two-Tone Shoes</u></a> . Three time settings provide the backdrop for this story of love and revolution: 1936 in Albany, 1957 in Havana, and 1968 in Albany. Dialogue, characters and descriptive language display Kennedy's great skill. Keeping up with what's going on can be a challenge worth facing by any reader who enjoys literary fiction and fine writing.	
<a href="#"><u>Roscoe</u></a>	Kennedy, William	***	<a href="#"><u>Mar 02</u></a>	Lyrical narrative of tangled relationships, politics, love, and loss in Albany in the mid-20 <sup>th</sup> century. A mature writer with great skills and wisdom presents memorable characters.	
<a href="#"><u>Truth in Advertising</u></a>	Kenney, John	****	<a href="#"><u>4/20/13</u></a>	<b>Charming.</b> I was charmed by John Kenney's debut novel, <a href="#"><u>Truth in Advertising</u></a> . Protagonist Fin Dunbar works as a mid level copywriter for an ad agency and finds himself faced with what could be a career changer: working on an ad for the Superbowl. At the same time, his estranged father is dying. Kenney creates a workplace with vivid accuracy, and with the insight that there is never enough time to do everything that needs to be done. Work and life balance is an issue, as is maturity.	



Before readers know it, we're rooting for Fin, caring about what happens to him, and laughing at the client, the work, and Fin's relationships. We're also charmed by the people who care about Fin, and how he seems to start to grow up, at last. For readers looking for a novel that depicts work and life with realism, consider this one.

[The Driest Season](#)

Kenny, Meghan

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[5/11/18](#)

**Unsubtle.** Cielle, the teenage protagonist of Meghan Kenny's debut novel titled, [The Driest Season](#), lives on a Wisconsin farm in the early 1940s and experiences dramatic loss. There's nothing subtle in the things that shake up Cielle's world: her father's suicide, a tornado that destroys the barn, the backdrop of the World War, a draught that threatens the family's survival on the farm. What Kenny does well in this novel is make readers believe that Cielle handles everything in stride and finds hope after losses. A dramatic barn raising provides an image of a future during which all will one day be well.



[The Loving Husband](#)

Kent, Cristobel

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.

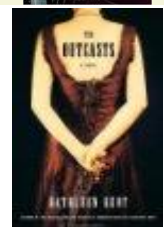



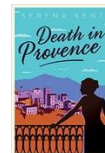
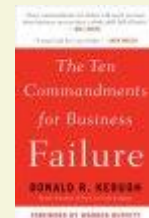
The Outcasts

Kent, Kathleen

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



<a href="#"><u>Death in Avignon</u></a>	Kent, Serena	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<a href="#"><u>Death in Provence</u></a>	Kent, Serena	*****	<a href="#"><u>5/24/19</u></a>	<p><b>Fresh.</b> Protagonist Penelope Kite gives herself a fresh start by moving to Provence in a novel by Serena Kent titled, <a href="#"><u>Death in Provence</u></a>. Her dreams face reality after she discovers a corpse floating in her swimming pool. Beware of starting this novel, since Kent starts a series with this book, and if you're like me, you're likely to want to read each successive installment. The characters are well-drawn, the mystery interesting, and the writing more than acceptable for this genre. Serena Kent is the penname of Deborah Lawrenson and her husband, Robert Rees. The pace of the narrative is relaxed, which seems to suit Penelope's life in Provence and this reader's attitude while reading this genre.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Ten Commandments for Business Failure</u></a>	Keough, Donald R.	*****	<a href="#"><u>1/3/09</u></a>	<p><b>Plain.</b> Former Coca-Cola president Don Keough has written a plain-talking book that exudes wisdom for executive reflection. Although the title is <a href="#"><u>The Ten Commandments for Business Failure</u></a>, there are actually eleven. Rather than try to provide a formula for success that is unlikely to be replicated, Keough uses his many years of experience to call attention to those approaches and tendencies in each of us that when we practice them are likely to lead to failure. While each of these commandments sounds simple, and they can be avoided in the extreme, each of us is likely to follow them to some degree quite often. In addition to his own experience, mostly at Coke, Keough uses recent examples of executives and companies who have followed these commandments and achieved</p>	

				failure. I read this book at the end of the year, and it provided a great chance to reflect on these commandments and examine which of them I may be following to my detriment. I highly recommend this book to any reader who enjoys plain, straightforward approaches, and who are prepared to think about their effectiveness at work.	
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[Fly Already](#)

Keret, Etgar

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



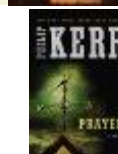
If the Dead Rise Not	Kerr, Philip	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
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Prayer

Kerr, Philip

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



[When I Was a Young Man: A Memoir](#)

Kerrey, Bob

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[Jul 02](#)

When you read this book, you'll understand why and how a patriotic, loyal Republican, became a Democrat, and how a war changed the attitudes of a generation about their government and its policies.



[Dark Times in the City](#)

Kerrigan, Gene


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[5/9/14](#)

**Dublin.** Fans of noir crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading Gene Kerrigan's [Dark Times in the City](#). While I've visited the city in the title, Dublin, as a tourist, Kerrigan brought me inside the landscape of the criminal element that I never noticed in this place. The art of war is explored here, as characters are manipulated. Protagonist Danny Callaghan comes alive as a fully formed interesting and complex character, thanks to



Kerrigan's fine writing. We've all found ourselves, like Danny, in the wrong place at the wrong time. Read this novel and find out what Danny has gotten himself into and what he has to do to get out of his predicament.

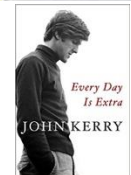
The Rage	Kerrigan, Gene	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
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[Every Day Is Extra](#)

Kerry, John

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



[Escape from the Deep: A Legendary Submarine and Her Courageous Crew](#)

Kershaw, Alex

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[6/25/09](#)

**Survivors.** Alex Kershaw tells the gripping story of *The Tang*, a World War II submarine, and its brave crew in a book titled [Escape From the Deep](#). After sinking thirteen Japanese ships during a mission, the final torpedo launched circles back to *The Tang* and sinks it, killing most of the crew. The nine survivors out of the crew of 87, including Captain Richard O'Kane, are taken to a prisoner of war camp where they are isolated, tortured and starved. All 87 members of the crew of *The Tang* went through hell after they became the most successful combat submarine of the war. Kershaw tells this story with respect and intensity. Most readers will find this to be a gripping tale of heroism.

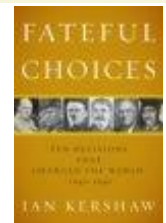


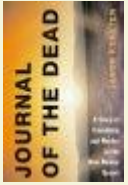
Fateful Choices

Kershaw, Ian

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



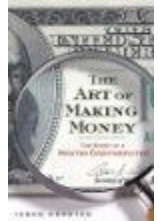
<a href="#"><u>Journal of the Dead: A Story of Friendship and Murder in the New Mexico Desert</u></a>	Kersten, Jason	**	<a href="#"><u>Nov 03</u></a>	<b>Dry.</b> Journalist takes sensational and macabre story and presents it a piece at a time, with little insight and flair.	
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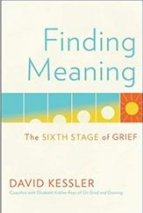
The Art of Making Money: The Story of a Master Counterfeiter

Kersten, Jason

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010



<a href="#"><u>Finding Meaning: The Sixth Stage of Grief</u></a>	Kessler, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
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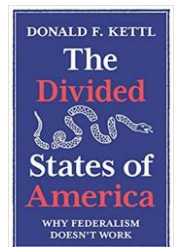
[The Divided States of America: Why Federalism Doesn't Work](#)

Kettl, Donald F.

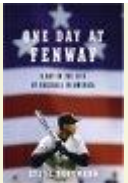
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[8/25/20](#)


**Inequality.** Timing can be everything when it comes to non-fiction. The uneven responses among different cities and states to the novel coronavirus provide one more example of the main points Donald F. Kettl makes in his book titled, [The Divided States of America: Why Federalism Doesn't Work](#). The sharing of power between the national government and individual states began as a creative compromise to create the United States of America. Kettl describes how that compromise built inequality into the balance, especially because of slavery. In this finely written book, Kettl argues that it is past time to reform our political system, and he offers some alternative solutions to what he sees as the problems of the current system. Where one lives makes the world of difference when it comes to education, health care, infrastructure and the risk of dying from a virus that some political leaders

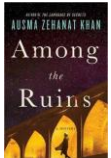


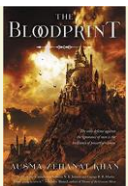
have not taken seriously. Any reader interested in public affairs should read this thoughtful book.

One day at Fenway : a day in the life of baseball in America	Kettmann, Steve	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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Almost Heaven: The Story of Women in Space	Kevles, Bettyann	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
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<a href="#"><u>Biz Dev 3.0: Changing Business As We Know It</u></a>	Keywell, Brad	*	<a href="#"><u>Feb 02</u></a>	Annoying book with little helpful information, except for those immersed in bus dev, or those who want to visit the cages of the animals who live there.	
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<a href="#"><u>Among the Ruins</u></a>	Khan, Ausma Zehanat	****	<a href="#"><u>4/19/17</u></a>	<b>Jewels.</b> The third novel in the series by Asuma Zehanat Khan featuring Canadian detectives Rachel Getty and Esa Khattak may not be the ideal starting point for new readers. Absent the backstory, the action in the new novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Among the Ruins</u></a> , may not be understood, especially the connections among characters. We're not in Canada anymore, as Esa is on leave in Iran. The death of a Canadian-Iranian filmmaker puts Esa back to work while in Iran. Khan uses this novel to pull readers into Iran's history, the country's crown jewels, and mystery and murder, past and present. Fans of the series are those most likely to enjoy reading the latest installment.	
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<a href="#"><u>The Bloodprint</u></a>	Khan, Ausma Zehanat	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
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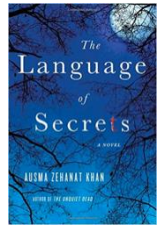
[The Language of Secrets](#)

Khan, Ausma Zehanat

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[12/9/16](#)

**Poetry.** The second novel in the series featuring detectives Rachel Getty and Esa Khattak by Ausma Zehanat Khan is titled, [The Language of Secrets](#). It's not often that poetry becomes a key component of a crime novel, but that's the case in this Canadian detective procedural. Khan continues to develop the characters of these interesting and complex protagonists. The plot pacing will please most readers, and the subject matter is serious and thoughtfully presented. Readers who enjoy intelligent crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.



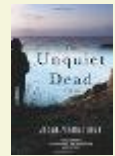
[The Unquiet Dead](#)

Khan, Ausma Zehanat

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[9/9/16](#)

**Srebrenica.** Readers who enjoy detective fiction may consider Ausma Zehanat Khan's debut novel titled, [The Unquiet Dead](#). Khan begins a series featuring two Canadian detectives, Rachel Getty and her boss, Esa Khattak. Esa asks Rachel to investigate the case of Christopher Drayton who died after falling from a cliff near his home. As the case unfolds, we learn that Drayton was living under an assumed name, and that his background involved participation in the Bosnian-Serbian war, and actions he performed in Srebrenica. Khan develops her characters with great skill, and the plot will satisfy most mystery lovers.

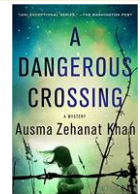


[A Dangerous Crossing](#)

Khan, Ausma Zehanat

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.

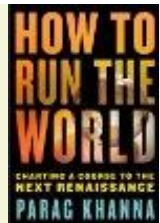


How to Run the World: Charting a Course to the Next Renaissance

Khanna, Parag

Unread

I read as far as page 38, and never picked it up again. Shelf of Ennui 2011.



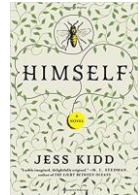
Himself

Kidd, Jess

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6/9/17

**Orphan.** When I noted that Jess Kidd begins her debut novel, Himself, with a stranger coming to town, I sensed that life in the town was about to be disrupted. Protagonist Mahony was left at an orphanage as a baby, and when he left Dublin for the village of Mulderrig, what he thought he knew about his mother, Orla Sweeney, begins to change. Kidd pairs Mahony with an interesting cast of collaborators, living and dead, who turn the village upside down in a search for understanding. I enjoyed the dark comedy and the finely told story that entertained me thoroughly from beginning to end.



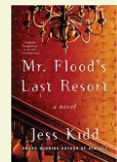
Mr. Flood's Last Resort

Kidd, Jess

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10/5/18

**Hoarder.** Jess Kidd introduces readers to terrific characters in her novel titled, Mr. Flood's Last Resort. Protagonist Maud Drennan works as a caregiver and in her reality saints of the past are participants in her daily life. Her latest case brings her to the gothic home of a hoarder, Cathal Flood. Maud is the latest in a series of caregivers, all of whom Mr. Flood has shunned. Kidd draws these characters with skill and insight and lets us wince and smile as their lives play out. The saints are close by the sinners, and patient readers can watch grace enter the lives of these eccentric characters. In many fine works of fiction things are not as they appear, and I found myself giving Kidd full suspension of my disbelief as she works her literary magic.



The Book of Longings

Kidd, Sue Monk

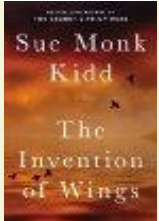
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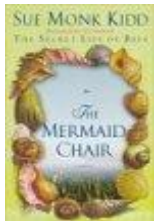
6/2/20

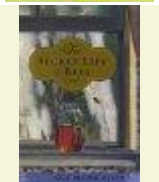
**Ana.** In her novel titled, The Book of Longings, Sue Monk Kidd introduces readers to a strong female protagonist named Ana who led a remarkable life in the middle east during the Roman occupation. Also, Ana's husband was Jesus who was crucified by the Romans. The novel helps readers reimagine a familiar story in the context of how a woman navigated a society in which all women are

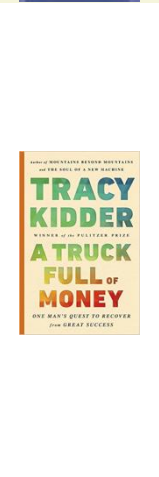


undervalued. Some readers will enjoy the “what if” element of the plot, while others may be uncomfortable with the notion that Jesus had a wife. I found the story compelling, saw Ana as a fascinating and complex character, and came away from the novel with all my beliefs intact.

The Invention of Wings	Kidd, Sue Monk	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
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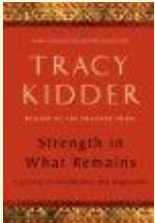
<u>The Mermaid Chair</u>	Kidd, Sue Monk	***	<u>June 05</u>	<b>Magical.</b> Ensemble of characters finding mystery, romance, betrayal, grief, forgiveness and redemption on Egret Island.	
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<u>The Secret Life of Bees</u>	Kidd, Sue Monk	***	<u>Sep 02</u>	Richly written first novel set in South Carolina-1964, full of love, loss, grief, friendship, and the coming of age of a young girl who finds mothers who love her.	
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<u>A Truck Full of Money: One Man's Quest to Recover from Great Success</u>	Kidder, Tracy	****	<u>10/12/16</u>	<b>Unfinished.</b> Tracy Kidder writes about the life of Paul English in his book titled, <u>A Truck Full of Money: One Man's Quest to Recover from Great Success</u> . In many respects, this book describes volume one in the life of this interesting person. English was a co-founder of Kayak, and it was from the sale of that company that he obtained the money from the book's title. To place that success in context, Kidder describes Paul's early life, his struggle with the mood swings from his bipolar disorder, sometimes treated with medication, other times not. What flows from Paul's mania can be great ideas that lead to new things, or a spiral of	
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unfinished things that might have been. The quest involves a search for meaning and for how Paul can make a difference. Few writers are as skilled as Kidder at nonfiction narrative, and I have enjoyed every book of his that I've read. While I enjoyed this one, after I turned the last page, I reflected that the best parts of this unfinished life may be ahead. Read the book and see if you agree with me.

<a href="#"><u>Home Town</u></a>	Kidder, Tracy	***	<a href="#"><u>2/00</u></a>	Kidder's great skill helps readers see, feel and hear the real people, normal and strange who live in his hometown of Northampton, MA. Recommended.	
<a href="#"><u>House</u></a>	Kidder, Tracy	***	<a href="#"><u>2/00</u></a>	If you've ever built a house, and can now read about, try this book.	
<a href="#"><u>Mountains Beyond Mountains</u></a>	Kidder, Tracy	****	<a href="#"><u>Jan 04</u></a>	<b>Over the Top.</b> Fine writing by talented writer about the amazing life and work of Paul Farmer, a medical doctor and anthropologist working in Haiti for the past two decades, and how his methods for community based treatment of communicable disease have changed international medicine.	
<a href="#"><u>My Detachment</u></a>	Kidder, Tracy	***	<a href="#"><u>Dec 05</u></a>	<b>Diffident.</b> Finely written memoir of experience in Vietnam: shy, introspective, reluctant and honest. All Vietnam books create some controversy; this one delivers great writing.	

<a href="#"><u>Strength in What Remains</u></a>	Kidder, Tracy	*****	<a href="#"><u>7/9/09</u></a>	<p><b>Hope.</b> The scale and abstractness of the inhumanity of mass violence and genocide can be so remote that those of us who have not experienced it first-hand cannot begin to imagine what it is like, let alone how we would behave if we faced such horror. Tracy Kidder makes this personal and human in his finely written new book, <a href="#"><u>Strength in What Remains</u></a>, in which he tells a two-part story. In the first part, he tells the story of Deogracias, a Tutsi from Burundi, who escaped Hutu violence, and eventually arrived in the United States. In the second part, Deo and Kidder return to Burundi, Rwanda, and New York, and conveys both the memories the visits trigger, and how Deo has responded to what happened. Deo's story is packed with drama, loss, pain, and luck. At every turn, Deo move ahead, spurred on by hope. His significant response after becoming an American citizen was to return to the town in Burundi where his parents live and to build a medical clinic. <a href="#"><u>Strength in What Remains</u></a> is an inspiring story about an individual who displays the best of human nature that came as a response to the very worst human behavior. I came away from reading this book with renewed hope in the ability of a single individual to make a difference against any odds, and to overcome any loss to do something good for others.</p>	
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[The Soul of a New Machine](#)

Kidder, Tracy

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[2/00](#)

A classic. Highly recommended.



<a href="#"><u>Good Prose: The Art of Nonfiction</u></a>	Kidder, Tracy and Richard Todd	*****	<a href="#"><u>1/10/13</u></a>	<p><b>Partnership.</b> The relationship between writer Tracy Kidder and editor Richard Todd may not be typical, but the result in the form of the finely crafted books by Kidder proves that something has worked well in this four-decade partnership. Their new book, <a href="#"><u>Good Prose: The Art of Nonfiction</u></a>, has both individuals reflecting on the writing and editing process. As I read it, I marveled about how special their relationship has been, a deep friendship, and how the skills of each harmonize to create very fine writing. On one level, this book offers writers some very cogent advice on what to do and what to avoid. On another level, readers can enter into the personal lives of these two talented individuals and eavesdrop on their collaboration. As a reader, I found myself entertained by the fine writing of this short book, the wisdom of the authors' advice, and the realization that when both authors and editors are skilled and strong-willed, the books that flow from such a talented partnership are ones well worth reading. Writers and editors who pick up just a few tips from Kidder and Todd will make me an even happier reader.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Last Mrs. Astor</u></a>	Kiernan, Frances	***	<a href="#"><u>Oct 07</u></a>	<p><b>Tireless.</b> Fond biography of the late Brooke Astor will make readers wish they had known her, and will impress all with her tireless efforts to help worthy causes in New York.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Too Close to Breathe</u></a>	Kiernan, Olivia	****	<a href="#"><u>7/6/18</u></a>	<p><b>Frankie.</b> Crime novels can succeed or fail based on whether or not readers like the protagonist. The protagonist of Olivia Kiernan's debut novel, <a href="#"><u>Too Close to Breathe</u></a>, is Detective Chief Superintendent Frankie Sheehan, and she is a piece of work. Having just returned to duty after nearly being killed on her last case, she's not thrilled to dive into another homicide. As readers learn her backstory, and join</p>	



				<p>her sleuthing, we all understand that once Frankie gets started, there's no stopping her, not even direct orders. I usually enjoy this genre, and this debut of Frankie was well written entertainment for this reader.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Golden State</u></a>	Kiesling, Lydia	****	10/17/18	<p><b>Overwhelmed.</b> What do we do when we become overwhelmed? Most of us make a change of one sort or another. When Daphne, the protagonist of Lydia Kiesling's debut novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Golden State</u></a>, feels her world about to come apart, she leaves San Francisco with her daughter, Honey, and heads to the high desert in California to a mobile home she inherited from her grandparents. Daphne tries to talk to her husband every day. He is stranded in Turkey after some processing error invalidated his green card. Bewildered by what to do next, Daphne meets interesting characters with complicated lives, some provide help, others create barriers. The fine prose that accompanies us on Daphne's journey makes the trip very pleasurable. Daphne is caught in this overwhelmed state in a divided world, and she does what every person does: something next. Fans of good writing, and anyone with a narrow view of life in California should consider reading this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>House of Lies: How Management Consultants Steal Your Watch and Then Tell You the Time</u></a>	Kihn, Martin	**	Aug 05	<p><b>Sloppy.</b> Replete with humor, especially relating to the language of consultants, but weak on content and writing that needed more care and attention, this book might entertain, but won't inform.</p>	

Next Stop,  
Reloville: Life  
Inside America's  
New Rootless  
Professional  
Class

Kilborn, Peter K.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010

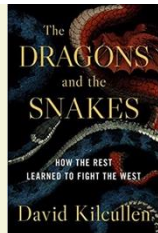


The Dragons  
and the Snakes:  
How the Rest  
Learned to Fight  
the West

Kilcullen, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



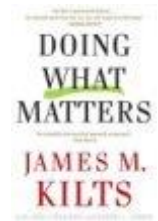
Doing What  
Matters: How to  
Get Results That  
Make a  
Difference - The  
Revolutionary  
Old-School  
Approach  
Blue Ocean  
Strategy: How  
To Create  
Uncontested  
Market Space  
and Make the  
Competition  
Irrelevant

Kilts, James M.

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Jan 08

**Effectiveness.** Former Gillette turnaround CEO (also Nabisco, Kraft and General Foods) shares his practical and disciplined approach to management. Readers will find useful advice and behavior to emulate.



Kim, W. Chan  
and Renee  
Mauborgne

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July 05

**Swimming.** Analytical tools, illustrations and examples of how to swim away from markets of crowded red oceans of fin to fin competition into blue oceans of opportunity for profitable market growth through value innovation.

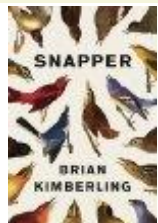




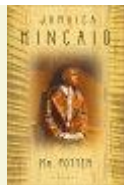
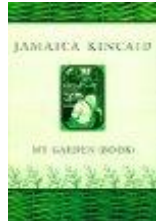


Snapper

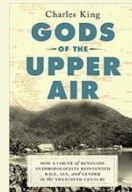

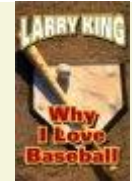

Kimberling,  
Brian

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



<a href="#"><u>Thinking and Being</u></a>	Kimhi, Irad	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
The Fourth Network: How Fox Broke the Rules and Reinvented Television	Kimmel, Daniel M.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<a href="#"><u>Mr. Potter</u></a>	Kincaid, Jamaica	**	<a href="#"><u>Aug 02</u></a>	Using poetic images, haunting repetition, and odd time sequences, Kincaid's new novel describes her estranged father.	
<a href="#"><u>My Garden (Book)</u></a>	Kincaid, Jamaica	***		I read this book in January in a climate there not much gardening can be done. Kincaid writes with a unique style and her stories are captivating. You don't need to be a gardener to enjoy her reflections.	
<a href="#"><u>See Now Then</u></a>	Kincaid, Jamaica	***	<a href="#"><u>4/5/13</u></a>	<b>Sweet.</b> The new novel by Jamaica Kincaid, <a href="#"><u>See Now Then</u></a> , is likely to frustrate those readers who bear with her to the end. I found that I had to give myself up to her poetic meandering and not worry much about what was going on. By bearing with her to the end, I closed the book with a sense that I had absorbed the life of protagonist Mrs. Sweet, and in some ways I began to see the world from her point of view. Read a sample before deciding to plunge in.	
Our Last Best Chance: The Pursuit of Peace in a Time of Peril	King Abdullah II of Jordan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011.	

<a href="#">Gods of the Upper Air: How a Circle of Renegade Anthropologists Reinvented Race, Sex, and Gender in the Twentieth Century</a>	King, Charles	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<a href="#">The Ha-Ha</a>	King, Dave	*****	<a href="#">May 05</a>	<b>Connections.</b> Finely written unique debut novel with brain-damaged narrator who can't speak or write as clearly as he thinks, and connects in multiple memorable relationships.	
<a href="#">Why I Love Baseball</a>	King, Larry	*	<a href="#">Aug 04</a>	<b>Balk.</b> Brief and tedious, rambling narrative full of song lyrics, quotes from players and managers, names dropped and boring recollections of games and teams gone by.	
<a href="#">Dreaming Spies</a>	King, Laurie R.	*****	<a href="#">7/9/15</a>	<b>Languid.</b> The lazy days of summer are an ideal time to read the latest Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes by Laurie King titled, <a href="#">Dreaming Spies</a> . Readers looking for a fast-paced thriller should search elsewhere. Russell and Holmes find themselves on a long journey by ship, walking across Japan to meet a client, and searching the Bodleian at Oxford. There are haiku to read and think about, and I found myself slowing down as I read this novel. If a languid novel is in your summer plans, consider reading this one.	

<a href="#"><u>Garment of Shadows</u></a>	King, Laurie R.	*****	<a href="#"><u>11/26/12</u></a>	<p><b>Surprises.</b> Morocco is the setting for <a href="#"><u>Garment of Shadows</u></a>, the latest Laurie King novel featuring Sherlock Holmes and Mary Russell. King takes a familiar character, Holmes, and pairs him with Russell, his intellectual equal, and places them in settings outside England. Fans of intelligent mysteries, packed with surprises, fleshed out by well-developed characters and just the right amount of descriptive language, are those most likely to enjoy this novel and the others in this series. I read this novel quickly and enjoyed every page.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Island of the Mad</u></a>	King, Laurie R.	*****	<a href="#"><u>9/24/18</u></a>	<p><b>Misbehaving.</b> The fifteenth installment in the Mary Russell Sherlock Holmes series by Laurie R. King is titled, <a href="#"><u>Island of the Mad</u></a>. A friend asks Mary to find a missing Aunt, and clues lead her to Venice. Meanwhile, Sherlock's brother, Mycroft, wants some reliable intelligence about the rise of the Fascists in Italy. The mystery is well-plotted, the settings perfectly described and the whimsy always pleasant. In Venice, there are costumes and masks, and Sherlock ends up meeting and playing with Cole Porter. In the spirit of "anything goes" the hijinks are delightful, and I was well-entertained during the time spent reading this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Lockdown</u></a>	King, Laurie R.	*****	<a href="#"><u>8/12/17</u></a>	<p><b>School.</b> Prolific novelist Laurie R. King offers readers a tense suspense novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Lockdown</u></a>. Set mostly at Guadalupe Middle School on career day, King uses multiple narrators to increase and release tension and to keep twisting the plot in unexpected ways. There's a large cast of characters, and flashbacks to fill in some gaps. It becomes clear early on, for some even from the title, that there will be a shooting at the school. The entertainment comes from guessing who will do what as the plot unfolds. Readers who like complicated suspense novels are those most likely to enjoy this one.</p>	

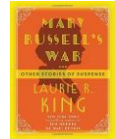
Mary Russell's War and Other Stories of Suspense

King, Laurie R.

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5/13/17

**Fillers.** The nine stories in the collection by Laurie R. King titled, Mary Russell's War and Other Stories of Suspense, fill in gaps in what readers know about the world of Sherlock Holmes and Mary Russell. From Mary's youth to her old age, King connects pieces of stories in ways that will delight fans of this series. I especially enjoyed the stories set during World War I. King has done a wonderful job creating the character Mary Russell and updates Sherlock in ways that will delight many readers.



The Bones of Paris

King, Laurie R.

\*\*\*\*

2/7/14

**Investigation.** Fans of finely written crime fiction will find four successful components in Laurie R. King's novel, The Bones of Paris. There's a well-developed cast of complex characters, led by protagonist Harris Stuyvesant, reprised from her earlier novel, *Touchstone*. The setting is atmospheric and interesting: Paris in 1929 with a cast of celebrities including Man Ray, Ernest Hemingway, Cole Porter, Natalie Barney and Josephine Baker. Third, the plot is complex allowing Harris' investigation to follow many leads. Finally, the dialogue and prose are well-crafted, allowing the narrative to proceed easily. I found part of the subject matter to be a bit gruesome for my taste, but that is often the cover charge with crime fiction. I was entertained and very satisfied by the end.



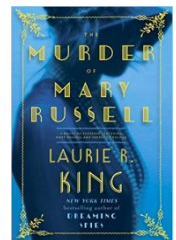
The Murder of Mary Russell

King, Laurie R.

\*\*\*\*

7/15/16

**Hudson.** Readers like me have been thrilled that Laurie R. King has continued to write novels featuring Sherlock Holmes and Mary Russell. In each novel, there is more development of familiar characters. The latest novel, The Murder of Mary Russell, develops Mrs. Hudson, the longtime housekeeper. It's no spoiler to say that readers will learn things about Mrs. Hudson that we never expected. The novel offers so much of what we've





come to expect from Laurie King: an intelligent plot, interesting twists, and hours of reading entertainment in the comfort of familiar characters, some of whom have deeply kept secrets to be revealed.

<a href="#"><u>Euphoria</u></a>	King, Lily	*****	<a href="#"><u>6/18/14</u></a>	<p><b>Balance.</b> <a href="#"><u>Euphoria</u></a> is close to the feeling I had after completing Lily King's finely written novel by that title. I can't think of an element that King didn't get just right in this novel. Three main characters are introduced and developed with skill and their behavior at work and in relationship will resonate for most readers. The setting of these anthropologists living among the tribes in New Guinea comes alive through King's lyrical prose. The plot moved quickly, and exposition was restrained to what was essential to create an integrated novel. King maintains all elements in a perfect balance. Readers who enjoy literary fiction will find much to like in this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The English Teacher</u></a>	King, Lily	***	<a href="#"><u>Jan 06</u></a>	<p><b>Hardy.</b> Best teacher at New England prep school, praised for her teaching of Hardy's <i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i>, struggles with her own emotional life, a new marriage to a widower with three kids, and a reluctance to tell her own son about his father.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Writers &amp; Lovers</u></a>	King, Lily	*****	<a href="#"><u>6/2/20</u></a>	<p><b>Crossroads.</b> Casey Peabody, the thirty-one year old protagonist of Lily King's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Writers &amp; Lovers</u></a>, feels all the confusion and vulnerability of being adrift. Casey's mother died suddenly. A romantic relationship fell apart. The novel she's been working on for six years still isn't finished. She lives in a hovel. At age thirty-one she works as a waitress to survive. Thanks to King's fine writing, readers care deeply about Casey, and root for her as she forges ahead. She falls in love with Oscar and Silas at the same time, both writers and very different personalities. Will she choose one or the</p>	

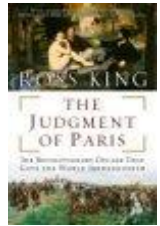
				other? Can she continue to pursue her dream of writing? Will she ever get out from under her debt? Fans of literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this finely written novel.	
<a href="#"><u>The Good Neighbor</u></a>	King, Maxwell	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Double Feature	King, Owen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<a href="#"><u>Leonardo and the Last Supper</u></a>	King, Ross	***	<a href="#"><u>9/24/13</u></a>	<b>Exhaustive.</b> Readers with an interest in art history or in Leonardo da Vinci are those most likely to enjoy reading Ross King's book, <a href="#"><u>Leonardo and the Last Supper</u></a> . King has a lively writing style, and I found myself drawn into the story of Leonardo's life and how he went about creating this particular work of art. King's exploration of the subject is comprehensive, and he approaches it from a variety of perspectives. For me, the book was more exhaustive than satisfying. I learned a thing or two, but the path to that outcome was more tedious than I would have liked.	
<a href="#"><u>Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling</u></a>	King, Ross	***	<a href="#"><u>May 03</u></a>	<b>Soars.</b> Open these pages and leave behind your images from The Agony and the Ecstasy. Learn things you never knew about the great artist and one of his masterworks.	

The Judgment  
of Paris

King, Ross

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



11/22/63: A  
Novel

King, Stephen

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4/27/12

**Obdurate.** Readers who like to settle in and spend a lot of time with a well-told story should consider Stephen King's latest novel, 11/22/63. King's imagination soars as he considers the question of what would have happened if Kennedy wasn't shot and killed in 1963. The device he uses to riff on this topic is time travel, and by using protagonist Jake Epping as an everyman who gets to decide the future of reality itself. A lot of the book is a love story that is endearing and important to the plot. Changing the past has consequences, and as King restates often, "the past is obdurate," it does not want to change. Jake finds events become harmonized and his best plans can lead to unexpected outcomes. This is fine story telling with just enough speculation and imagination to keep a reader interested and willing to suspend disbelief.



Bag of Bones

King, Stephen

7/99

Recommended as a haunting tale with better character development than we can recall from his horror stories of the past.



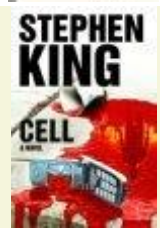
Cell

King, Stephen

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Apr 06

**Pulse.** Gory, fast-paced, improbable and engrossing entertainment from the master of this form. Cell phones turn into weapons of mass destruction.



Doctor Sleep

King, Stephen

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1/13/14

**Wheel.** Decades after writing *The Shining*, Stephen King decided to answer a question he was often asked: “What happened to Danny?” The very satisfying answer to that question arrives in King’s novel, Doctor Sleep. Dan Torrance is now a middle aged alcoholic working in a hospice where he provides comfort to the dying. During the course of the novel, Dan hits bottom, then begins recovery through a sponsor and Alcoholics Anonymous. I can imagine King’s delight in using his own experience in AA to develop Dan’s character. King writes, “Life was a wheel and it always came back around.” This is not a sequel as much as it is an updating. Dan is older, and still very special. His help is needed, and he provides it, in protecting a young woman, and in defeating a powerful foe. As constant readers expect from King, this is a great story, full of frights, and one that can prompt an urgency to reach to the ending. I read this novel during a deep winter freeze, and I couldn’t distinguish the shivers that came off the page from those that were caused by the cold wind.



Duma Key

King, Stephen

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Mar 08

**Forces.** One-armed protagonist moves to Florida and creates paintings with more power than is natural. 600 pages of reading pleasure that cause shivers and shakes, leading to regret by the end that it was over so soon.



Elevation

King, Stephen

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11/24/18

**Weight.** I love to read Stephen King’s weighty novels, and I am also delighted when he tells a story in shorter form because he never bloats his prose. I was thoroughly entertained by his novella titled, Elevation. Set in a familiar King setting, Castle Rock, the protagonist, Scott Carey, looks the same on the outside, but he is losing weight no matter how much he eats. Scott confides his situation with his friend, Doctor Bob Ellis, who measures and



weighs Scott but can't figure out why the weight loss is happening. In the meantime, small town life continues, and King tells a story of hope in which people who feel excluded can become "one of us." Readers won't spend too long reading this latest Castle Rock story but may think about it long after the last page is turned.

<a href="#"><u>End of Watch</u></a>	King, Stephen	*****	<a href="#"><u>6/17/16</u></a>	<p><b>Control.</b> Stephen King needed fewer than 450 pages in the novel, <a href="#"><u>End of Watch</u></a>, to bring the Bill Hodges series to a very satisfying conclusion. Most readers who enjoyed the first two installments will be pleased with the finale. The Mercedes killer, Brady Hartsfield, has found a clever way to control the behavior of others. The familiar cast of characters from the earlier novels returns, and King uses great dialogue to draw readers into their lives. Hodges finds himself in declining health, and his business partner, Holly Gibney, uses her many skills to help him stop Hartsfield from carrying out his evil plans. Fans of King appreciate the thrilling plot, the quirky twists, the humor and the joy of reading a well-told story, all of which can be found in this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Everything's Eventual: 14 Dark Tales</u></a>	King, Stephen	***	<a href="#"><u>May 02</u></a>	<p>Well-crafted, strange and macabre stories from a master of the short story genre. Great bedtime reading: take one a night for two weeks.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Finders Keepers</u></a>	King, Stephen	*****	<a href="#"><u>7/24/15</u></a>	<p><b>Writers.</b> Long summer days are an ideal time to relax with a Stephen King story. I zipped through King's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Finders Keepers</u></a>, in two lazy afternoons, and was delighted by the characters, plot and dialogue. The bonus for King fans is the reprisal of characters from last summer's novel, <i>Mr. Mercedes</i>. What made me like this summer's novel even more was the plot about writers and an obsessed reader. I think King is among our finest</p>	

<a href="#">From a Buick 8</a>	King, Stephen	***	<a href="#">Jan 03</a>	<p>contemporary storytellers, and this novel entertained me thoroughly.</p> <p><b>Classic.</b> King's character development reaches a high point in this book. Allowing multiple narrators, the voices of each character show King's ability to bring characters to life and keep them differentiated.</p>	
<a href="#">Full Dark, No Stars</a>	King, Stephen	***	<a href="#">3/5/11</a>	<p><b>Ordinary.</b> Prepare yourself before you start to read Stephen King's new book, <a href="#">Full Dark No Stars</a>. This writing demands an emotional reaction in listeners, and those readers who are ready to spend time with evil are likely to be prepared for the emotions that will follow. Each of the four long stories in this collection explores how an ordinary individual adjusts and reacts to evil. Readers are set up to react emotionally to the action alongside the characters, and it is only afterwards that one can reflect on whether the choices made by the characters reflect ones that match what ordinary people are likely to do. King is a master storyteller and these four stories will trigger emotional responses and reflection in those readers who open these pages.</p>	
<a href="#">If It Bleeds</a>	King, Stephen	****	<a href="#">6/2/20</a>	<p><b>Novellas.</b> The four novellas in the collection by Stephen King titled, <a href="#">If It Bleeds</a>, will appeal to all readers who enjoy his imaginative storytelling. I especially enjoyed the return of Holly Gibney from the Bill Hodges trilogy in the title story. I found each novella satisfying and read them too quickly, as I usually do with King's work.</p>	
<a href="#">Joyland</a>	King, Stephen	****	<a href="#">6/25/13</a>	<p><b>Medium.</b> Fans of Stephen King novels who expect a supersized tome from this prolific and popular writer might think that <a href="#">Joyland</a> is more appetizer than entrée. They would be wrong. While it comes in at fewer than 300 pages, this is a complete and satisfying novel that provides enjoyable entertainment and reading pleasure. Protagonist</p>	



				<p>Devon Jones spends a summer college break working at an amusement park while he grieves losing his girlfriend's affection. King develops Jones with great skill and draws readers into a crime novel plot that tells a great story. A boy suffering from muscular dystrophy serves as a medium for a spirit stuck on a ride in the amusement park. King sells so many books because he tells great stories, and this paperback crime novel is no exception.</p> <p><b>Descriptive.</b> Stephen King says that after he leaped at the opportunity to edit the 2007 Best American Short Stories, he became energized by the shorter forms of fiction. The product of this energy is a collection titled Just After Sunset. These thirteen short stories are imaginative, creative, sometimes predictable, and consistently satisfying. King excels at those big fat books that keep building intensity, and add more and more levels of description, character development and thrills. Within the constraints of the short stories, King uses the same level of description that makes each scene vivid, maintains a pacing that thrills, and provides enough character development to makes these individuals real. One of the stories in the collection was first written thirty years ago, and most of the others have been published in mainstream magazines in recent years. The one-a-day plan to read this collection provides almost two weeks of reading pleasure, with enough chill to thrill, but not so much creepiness that you will lose sleep.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Just After Sunset</u></a>	King, Stephen	***	<a href="#"><u>4/18/09</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>Lisey's Story</u></a>	King, Stephen	***	<a href="#"><u>Mar 07</u></a>	<p><b>Grief.</b> A widow's story of her long marriage to a writer, and the power of their love. Atypical King, which may displease some fans but will surprise readers who have pigeonholed King.</p>	

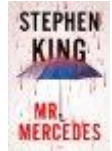
[Mr. Mercedes](#)

King, Stephen

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[6/25/14](#)

**Retired.** All the elements of good crime fiction are evident in Stephen King's novel, [Mr. Mercedes](#). The detective protagonist, Bill Hodges, is an interesting, complex and flawed character who loves his work. The criminal, known as the Mercedes killer for the way he used an automobile, engages in a well-matched contest of wits and skills with Hodges. The plot develops at a pace that keeps a reader engaged, and the dialogue suits each character. Hodges finds little reason to live now that he has retired from a long career as a detective. He finds new energy and meaning when the Mercedes killer taunts him about his failure to solve this case. King excels at storytelling, and he finds ways to develop each character so that we recognize them as fully formed humans behaving with all the irrationality and unpredictability that we live with daily. I was entertained by this novel and recommend it to any reader who likes crime fiction with well-developed characters and an engaging plot.



[Revival](#)

King, Stephen

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[12/5/14](#)

**Electricity.** For those readers who most enjoy fiction that presents a well-told story, the master storyteller Stephen King's novel, [Revival](#), will be just the right book to read over the course of a few cold winter nights. Two relationships weave through the narrative: the bond between Jamie and Charlie and the tension between religion and science. We meet Jamie as a boy and Charlie as the new minister in town. James becomes a musician and drug addict while the reverend, always interested in harnessing the power of electricity, uses his skills as a means to understanding the afterlife. I was thoroughly entertained by this story and by the skill with which King drew me in.



[Six Scary Stories](#)

King, Stephen

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[5/13/17](#)

**Quick.** Master storyteller Stephen King judged a writing competition to coincide with the release of one of his books. He found so many of the stories to be pleasurable that he convinced his publisher to put six of them together in a collection titled, [Six Scary Stories](#). Readers who enjoy scary stories are those most likely to enjoy this selection that is quick to read and packed with chills. I parceled out one story a night for a week, and while I slept soundly, my mind did race a bit more than usual during that week.



[The Bazaar of Bad Dreams](#)

King, Stephen

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[1/15/16](#)

**Variety.** When fans of Stephen King don't have an unread big novel to read, there's always a collection of his stories to savor. I enjoyed almost every story in his collection titled, [The Bazaar of Bad Dreams](#). One I had read before, Drunken Fireworks, was even more enjoyable the second time around. The sheer variety of the stories in this collection will delight King fans. Through new stories or old, this author knows how to entertain readers, and there are hours of entertainment waiting for readers in this collection.



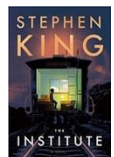
[The Institute](#)

King, Stephen

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[9/13/19](#)

**Evil.** If the words that come to your mind when you think of author Stephen King are "horror," "supernatural," or "creepy," and you avoid reading him because that's not the reading experience you're looking for, take another look at this talented writer and his new novel titled, [The Institute](#). As always, King tells a great story. The characters are interesting, complex, and they resemble us or people we recognize. The new novel starts so gently that some readers may feel lulled into a state of calm. While we are feeling calm, children with special talents are being abducted and abused, locked in a Maine facility that gives the book its title. King explores the evil inside those characters who become used to abusing children to support



some distant government official's notion of a greater good. Once the use of a child has been completed, the child is destroyed. King lays all this out, then gives the children agency, and lets them use their power. Both good and evil can be powerful and King offers readers a well written story that resonates for our time.

**Satisfaction.** I'm writing this review of Stephen King's novel, [The Outsider](#), three days after completing it, and the smile of satisfaction remains on my face. As fans have come to expect, King tells a captivating story that will engage readers from beginning to end. He presents interesting characters, some of them just like us, and others very, very different. There's an otherworldly component here and the return of a beloved character from earlier novels. Reading this novel was a very satisfying start to summer.



**Microcosm.** I turned the last page of Stephen King's [Under the Dome](#) with satisfaction and pleasure in completing a huge story very well-told. Few contemporary writers match King's imagination and ability to construct a situation in which the behavior of individuals and groups reveal character, leaving readers pondering how one might act in similar situations. The town of Chester's Mill, Maine finds itself isolated after a dome of mysterious origin covers and seals it. King presents readers with a huge cast of characters, from the ordinary men, women, children and dogs of the town, to unlikely heroes and troubled villains. After the dome descends on the town, the best and worst behavior of individuals emerges. [Under the Dome](#) is a morality tale for our time, and provides hours of engaging entertainment for readers.



[The Outsider](#)

King, Stephen

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[6/9/18](#)

[Under the Dome](#)

King, Stephen

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[1/16/10](#)

<a href="#"><u>Sleeping Beauties</u></a>	King, Stephen and Owen King	*****	<a href="#"><u>10/9/17</u></a>	<p><b>Enchantment.</b> I surrendered a weekend's reading to the 700 pages of a novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Sleeping Beauties</u></a>, co-written by father and son, Stephen and Owen King. The core setup is creative: all the women of the world have fallen asleep. What happens next through the King's collaboration will entertain all fans of well-told stories: great characters, an exciting plot, and insight into the behavior of regular people just like us. There's a battle of good and evil involving flawed heroes and virtuous villains. My interest in the story never flagged, and I enjoyed living in this story always anxious to find out what happens next.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Gwendy's Button Box</u></a>	King, Stephen and Richard Chizmar	****	<a href="#"><u>6/9/17</u></a>	<p><b>Custodian.</b> Did you know that even a prolific writer like Stephen King gets writer's block? After telling fellow author Richard Chizmar that he was having trouble finishing a story, King accepted Chizmar's offer to show him the story. What followed was a back and forth email exchange with both writers contributing to a novella titled, <a href="#"><u>Gwendy's Button Box</u></a>. Set in Castle Rock, Maine, the novel presents protagonist Gwendy Peterson who becomes the custodian for a time of a magical button box that has the capability to deliver both good and evil. King and Chizmar tackle coming of age, power, trust and responsibility in this short novel. I read it quickly and enjoyed every page.</p>	
When the Money Runs Out: The End of Western Affluence	King, Stephen D.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	

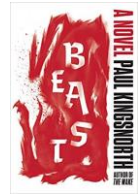
[Beast](#)

Kingsnorth, Paul

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[4/3/18](#)

**Bleak.** The middle book of the Buckmaster trilogy by Paul Kingsnorth is set a thousand years after the first. In the novel titled, [Beast](#), we find Edward Buckmaster alone in a bleak landscape, a forest without life, where he has been living for five seasons. He senses the presence of a beast in the forest and searches for it. Many readers will feel adrift by Kingsnorth's run-on prose, and that's probably what the author intends. Like Buckmaster, we are adrift in a world that we have ruined. Patient readers will find either clarity or confusion by the end of the novel. This far along, I now await the conclusion of the trilogy.

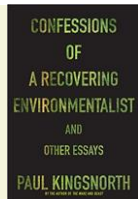


[Confessions of a Recovering Environmentalist and Other Essays](#)

Kingsnorth, Paul

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



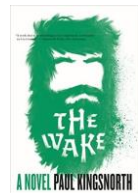
[The Wake](#)

Kingsnorth, Paul

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[10/13/17](#)

**Language.** The first two times I picked up Paul Kingsnorth novel titled, [The Wake](#), I just couldn't get into. I'd go five or ten pages, and the language would drag me down. About a year after I thought I set the novel aside for good, I noted that it was the first in a trilogy, and the second installment was coming out. I bit the bullet, and entered the world of green men during the time of the Norman invasion, and settled into a barrage of Saxon fricatives and all manner of the patois of the eleventh century. I slogged my way through to the end, ready to read the second installment.



Flight Behavior

Kingsolver,  
Barbara

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.





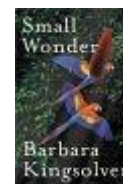
Small Wonder

Kingsolver,  
Barbara

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Jun 02

23 essays begin to provide an artist's response to 9/11. Author at her best in displaying her passion for natural history and biology.



The Lacuna

Kingsolver,  
Barbara

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3/5/10

**Sweeping.** Barbara Kingsolver propels readers across the U.S. and Mexico border during the 1930s and 1950s in her novel, The Lacuna. Constructed as the presentation of diaries, memoir, letters, archivist's notes and other sources, Kingsolver discloses the life and adventures of protagonist Harrison William Shepherd. In Mexico, he's in the household of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, including during the time when they sheltered Leon Trotsky. Later, he's called before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Any reader who likes historical fiction is likely to find these 500+ pages highly enjoyable. The title refers a gap, a missing piece, the hole in the story, that thing you don't know. Kingsolver takes us there as she leads readers to care about Shepherd and his desire to be left alone.



Unsheltered

Kingsolver,  
Barbara

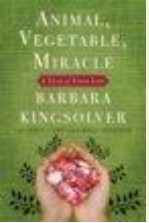
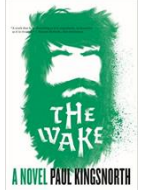
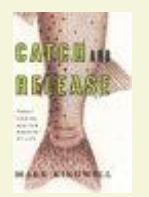
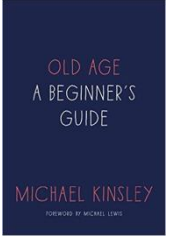
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1/4/19


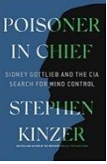

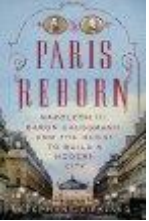
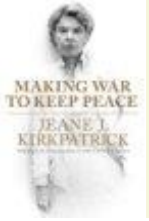
**Foundations.** Many of us crave stability and desire some solid foundation to anchor our lives. In her novel titled, Unsheltered, Barbara Kingsolver explores instability and uncertainty during two time periods: today and 100 years ago. She explores the lives of two families united by a house and their common inability to maintain that house as they face societal change and economic hardship. Kingsolver presents a cast of characters who reflect both time periods and highlights the dramatic divisions and differences between individuals in both eras. In the contemporary plotline, a professional working couple have done everything they thought was right, followed the rules, and find themselves in late middle age with little to show for



their efforts, and great uncertainty about finding the means to provide for themselves and their dependents. The plotline from the past includes threads to Darwin and to a scientist neighbor whose naturalist observations encourage a teacher whose boss won't allow him to teach about evolution. Instability is uncomfortable, and the fearful and unstable characters in this novel may disturb some readers. Thoughtful readers will want to talk about this novel with others and share the discomfort.

<a href="#"><u>Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life</u></a>	Kingsolver, Barbara, Camille Kingsolver and Steven Hopp	****	<a href="#"><u>July 07</u></a>	<b>Sustainable.</b> Story of how a family grew, raised or acquired almost all of its food from local farmers for a year, and the lessons for all about sustainable agriculture, eating foods in season and the energy costs of food production and distribution.	
<a href="#"><u>The Wake</u></a>	Kingsworth, Paul	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<a href="#"><u>Catch and Release: Trout Fishing and the Meaning of Life</u></a>	Kingwell, Mark	***	<a href="#"><u>Sep 04</u></a>	<b>Thinking.</b> University of Toronto philosophy professor focuses on what makes trout fishing so great: the ability to spend a lot of time just thinking. Engaging family stories, plenty of philosophizing, and less about trout fishing than the title would lead you to think.	
<a href="#"><u>Old Age: A Beginner's Guide</u></a>	Kinsley, Michael	****	<a href="#"><u>10/10/16</u></a>	<b>Mortality.</b> At a certain age, it is very appropriate to think often about death. Michael Kinsley offers a short book about his own musings on the last stage in life in his book titled, <a href="#"><u>Old Age: A Beginner's Guide</u></a> . Kinsley is a talented writer, and his prose in this book often weaves from humor to wisdom in the same sentence. He uses his personal experience with Parkinson's disease to inform his thoughts on this subject, and that gives him a way to makes this	

book less antiseptic and more real. Readers of any age can enjoy fine prose and a lot of wisdom in this short book.

Please Don't Remain Calm: Provocations and Commentaries	Kinsley, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<u>Poisoner in Chief: Sidney Gottlieb and the CIA Search for Mind Control</u>	Kinzer, Stephen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>Real World</u>	Kirino, Natsuo	**	<u>Oct 08</u>	<b>Adolescence.</b> A murder propels four teenage girls away from childhood and into a noir world that feels different from their suburban Tokyo lives.	
Paris Reborn: Napoléon III, Baron Haussmann, and the Quest to Build a Modern City	Kirkland, Stephane	Unread		I love Paris, but not to this level of detail. Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
Making War to Keep Peace	Kirkpatrick, Jeane J.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	

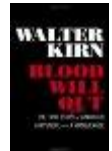
Blood Will Out:  
The True Story of a Murder, a  
Mystery, and a Masquerade

Kirn, Walter

\*\*\*\*

8/8/14

**Lured.** If you consider yourself immune from con artists, be sure to read Walter Kirn's book titled, Blood Will Out: The True Story of a Murder, a Mystery, and a Masquerade. In this non-fiction book that reads like a novel, Kirn is lured by a master manipulator he knows as Clark Rockefeller. The fact that Kirn spent more than a dozen years under the influence of this con man leads a reader to think Kirn is totally gullible or the Rockefeller imposter must have been quite a convincing character. This is the kind of story of a train wreck that I couldn't look away from. I had to read to the end. After reading the book, I concluded that Kirn may have been susceptible to manipulation, and that Clark Rockefeller was a very skilled con artist. Read for yourself and feel that sense of schadenfreude, thankful that it was Kirn, not you, who was manipulated.



Lost in the  
Meritocracy:  
The Undereducation  
of an  
Overachiever

Kirn, Walter

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7/25/09

**Misfit.** I found myself stuck between laughing and crying as I read Walter Kirn's memoir, Lost in the Meritocracy: The Undereducation of an Overachiever. The book covers Kirn's school years through Princeton, and along the way, Walter learned to win prizes, but missed most other elements in the acquisition of what would be considered a quality education. To those who say education is wasted on the young, this book can become a bible. Kirn learns the sounds to create the impression of being educated, and that leads him to awards and recognition. He's a misfit at Princeton, and the bulk of Lost in the Meritocracy covers those years of drug-induced malaise and disconnection. Kirn's fine writing proves that somewhere along the way he has acquired many of the elements of what we consider education. Like many of us, he may not have acquired those elements from the expected places, like fine schools.



<a href="#">Mission to America</a>	Kirn, Walter	**	<a href="#">Dec 05</a>	<p><b>Isolation.</b> Two young missionaries from Montana cult leave their isolated community in search of converts to improve the gene pool, and along the way become enticed by the allures of life outside. Some good satire, but weak character development.</p>	
<a href="#">Rabbits for Food</a>	Kirshenbaum, Binnie	****	<a href="#">7/26/19</a>	<p><b>Depression.</b> Can a writer find humor in mental illness while remaining empathetic and providing insight? Read Binnie Kirshenbaum's novel titled, <a href="#">Rabbits for Food</a>, for yourself to answer that question. I found the major depression experienced by the protagonist, Bunny, to be presented with sensitivity and insight, and the humor to be genuine. Bunny is a fascinating and complex character. Kirshenbaum captures the bleakness of treatment for mental health with great insight. While she is institutionalized, Bunny is pressed to sign up for activities for which she has no interest. One item on the list seems ok: time with the therapy dog. Day after day, the therapy dog never shows up. Kirshenbaum shows us in this novel that there is help for all of us in this crazy world, whether the therapy dog shows up or not.</p>	
On China	Kissinger, Henry	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<a href="#">Who Is Rich?</a>	Klam, Matthew	****	<a href="#">10/26/17</a>	<p><b>Conflicted.</b> Graphic artist Rich Fischer is protagonist and narrator of Matthew Klam's novel titled, <a href="#">Who Is Rich?</a>. Rich doesn't have much money, his one graphic novel is out of print, his work doing illustrations for a magazine is mediocre and declining, and he has fallen in love outside his marriage. His lover, Amy, is the wife of a billionaire</p>	

and they are both conflicted over their passions and over the place of money in their lives. While midlife struggles can become weary to read, Klam's prose is so finely written that even impatient readers are likely to enjoy Rich's plight.

The Cutting Room

Klavan, Laurance

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



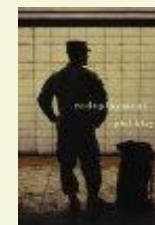
Redeployment

Klay, Phil

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8/8/14

**Meaning.** Fiction from veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan seems to be getting better and better. The best I've read so far is Redeployment by Phil Klay, a collection of short stories. In most of these stories, we meet characters who are searching for meaning. There's brutality, chaos, fear and guilt, alongside friendship, caring and survival. What makes me love these stories so much is Klay's finely written prose. Klay can pack a wallop in a single sentence, and I read many of them more than once. This is a great collection from a thoughtful and talented writer.



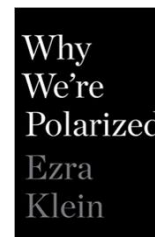
Why We're Polarized

Klein, Ezra

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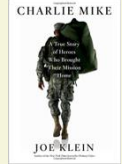
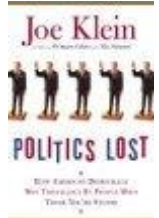
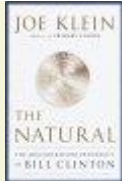

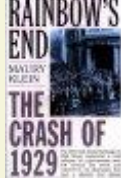
4/9/20

**Identity.** The key message by Ezra Klein in his book titled, Why We're Polarized, is that we are getting the political environment that we have consciously created since the 1960s after the Civil Rights Act led southern Democrats to become Republicans, and instead of both parties having liberal and conservative members, the parties moved to the poles of one being conservative and the other liberal. If you're not fed up yet, things will only get worse. Even so-called independents identify more often with one political party over the other. Klein makes identity the lens to which we can observe what has polarized us. Klein has a knack for synthesis and for being a good explainer. It all makes sense as one reads it. On further reflection,





what seemed conclusive becomes simplistic and a realization strikes that there are other lenses with which one can examine polarization in American life. That said, any reader interested in public affairs should consider reading this book to incorporate Klein's synthesis into one's own thinking about contemporary life.

<a href="#"><u>Charlie Mike: A True Story of Heroes Who Brought Their Mission Home</u></a>	Klein, Joe	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
Politics Lost	Klein, Joe	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<a href="#"><u>The Natural: The Misunderstood Presidency of Bill Clinton</u></a>	Klein, Joe	**	<a href="#"><u>May 02</u></a>	Attempt at analysis and perspective may be too soon. Readers will know Klein's point of view and not much else after reading this small book.	
<a href="#"><u>The Running Mate</u></a>	Klein, Joe	***		<b>Slow exposition.</b> Part civics lesson and part novel. If you like politics, give it a try. More interesting than much of the presidential campaign.	
<a href="#"><u>Rainbow's End: The Crash of 1929</u></a>	Klein, Maury	**	<a href="#"><u>Feb 02</u></a>	A historian's perspective on the stock market crash of 1929, full of fascinating characters and the context of those interesting times.	

On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal

Klein, Naomi

\*\*\*\*

7/23/20

**Collaborative.** I confess to waiting to read Naomi Klein's book titled, On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal, until a stifling heat wave arrived. Warm or cold, Klein's message resonates: people all over the world need to collaborate to address climate change. This book is a collection of her essays over the course of two decades. She pulls together the connections between the climate crisis, underregulated capitalism, economic inequality, systemic racism, adverse health conditions, emigration for survival and more. Whether you agree or disagree with Klein's views, you are likely to find that she describes her position with clarity and passion. It seems reasonable that we collaborate to work toward better outcomes for all.



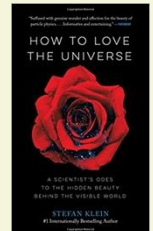
How to Love the Universe: A Scientist's Odes to the Hidden Beauty Behind the Visible World

Klein, Stefan

\*\*\*\*

2/21/19

**Excitement.** I remember in college that there were two introductory physics classes: the one for physics majors met for three hours starting at 8am on Saturday mornings; the other was called "physics for poets" and met after lunch for about an hour every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I took neither but realized decades later that the majors spent their Saturday mornings in the late 1960s learning things that were later disproven. For them, and for any reader with eyes open to the world, there's a great book to consider by Stefan Klein. Titled, How to Love the Universe: A Scientist's Odes to the Hidden Beauty Behind the Visible World, this book offers great images, well-written prose and an attitude of excitement about the world. It's never too late to learn a thing or two about particle physics, even if you think you already know it all.

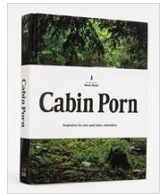


Cabin Porn:  
Inspiration for  
Your Quiet  
Place  
Somewhere

Klein, Zach

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



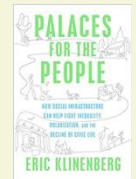
Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life

Klinenberg, Eric

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6/24/19

**Shared.** Our isolated social bubbles can reinforce the divisions that cause a breakdown in social order. In his book titled, Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life, Eric Klinenberg explores how we can make society stronger by supporting places that bring different people together. Libraries, parks, and welcoming religious and civil organizations can provide places where people can increase interaction and build stronger networks and communities. Through investments in creating these places, we will make our society stronger and more resilient. Any reader interested in public policy and in building a better community and country should consider reading this book and taking action along the lines Klinenberg describes.

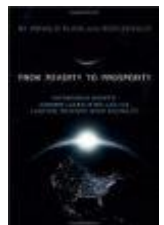


From Poverty to  
Prosperity:  
Intangible  
Assets, Hidden  
Liabilities and  
The Lasting  
Triumph over  
Scarcity

Kling, Arnold  
and Nick Schulz

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010

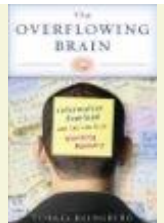


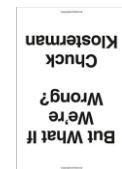

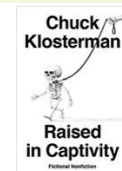
The Overflowing  
Brain:  
Information  
Overload and  
the Limits of

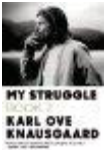
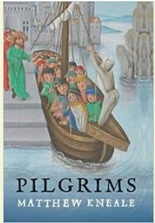
Klingberg,  
Torkel

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009



Working Memory					
<u><a href="#">But What If We're Wrong?</a></u>	Klosterman, Chuck	*****	<u><a href="#">3/2/17</a></u>	<p><b>Questions.</b> For general readers who are open to the possibility of changing one's mind, there are loads of questions and doubts that arise in Chuck Klosterman's book titled, <u><a href="#">But What If We're Wrong?: Thinking About the Present As If It Were the Past</a></u>. I was entertained by the ways in which Klosterman poses his questions, and found myself putting the book down at several points and taking a walk to think about what I had just read. During a time when many of us are very firm in our views and can be stubborn about what we think we know, this book can open one's mind to the possibility that we may well be wrong. For a dose of humility, peppered with humor, read this entertaining book.</p>	
<u><a href="#">I Wear the Black Hat: Grappling with Villains</a></u>	Klosterman, Chuck	*****	<u><a href="#">9/10/13</a></u>	<p><b>Punchy.</b> Read an excerpt from Chuck Klosterman's <u><a href="#">I Wear the Black Hat: Grappling with Villains</a></u>, and chances are good that you'll want to read the whole book. Through great pacing and punchy prose, Klosterman riffs on our reaction to various types of villains. Before I knew it, he had me thinking about my own, often counterintuitive, reactions to certain behavior. I laughed and I winced at some of what Klosterman had to say. If you like good prose and quirky thinking, give this book a try.</p>	
<u><a href="#">Raised in Captivity</a></u>	Klosterman, Chuck	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	

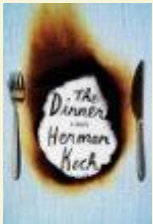
<u>X</u>	Klosterman, Chuck	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
My Struggle: Book One	Knausgaard, Karl Ove	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
My Struggle: Book Three	Knausgaard, Karl Ove	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
My Struggle: Book Two	Knausgaard, Karl Ove	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>Pilgrims</u>	Kneale, Matthew	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
Small Crimes in An Age of Abundance	Kneale, Matthew	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>Who Is Vera Kelly?</u>	Knecht Rosalie	***	<u>11/6/18</u>	<b>Character.</b> It took me longer than usual to read a novel titled, <u>Who Is Vera Kelly?</u> , by Rosalie Knecht, and I think I know why. While the chapters are short, they shift between two time periods and locations. While I thought this was a spy novel, it is really a character study which, duh, I should have concluded from the title. By the time I finished the	

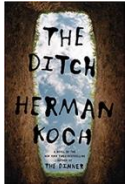
				novel, I appreciated getting to know Vera Kelly, the spy and the person. Scenes in Buenos Aires and New York City were finely drawn. Now that I know something about Vera Kelly, I wonder if Knecht will reprise her in another novel.	
<a href="#"><u>The Proving Ground</u></a>	Knecht, G. Bruce	**	<a href="#"><u>08/01</u></a>	Gripping story of death and disaster in a sailing race, including Larry Ellison of Oracle's experience. <a href="#"><u>Read longer review.</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Vera Kelly Is Not a Mystery</u></a>	Knecht, Rosalie	****	<a href="#"><u>7/15/20</u></a>	<b>Felix.</b> Having told readers who ex-CIA agent Vera Kelly is through an earlier novel, she certainly is not a mystery in Rosalie Knecht's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Vera Kelly Is Not a Mystery</u></a> . Vera is the kind of private investigator and human being who you want on your side. For a lost boy named Felix, Vera is just the right person to be on his side. After being asked by an old couple to find this missing boy, Vera goes to great lengths in her search, including taking a job at a home for boys, and going to the Dominican Republic to find his parents and their family home. Vera's own life intrudes along the way, adding depth to the character and to the plot momentum. I was thoroughly entertained by the story and the writing.	
<a href="#"><u>Goodnight, Nobody</u></a>	Knight, Michael	***	<a href="#"><u>Apr 03</u></a>	<b>Mesmerizing.</b> Nine well-written short stories full of imaginative plots, and enough character development to please readers.	
<a href="#"><u>Head Wounds</u></a>	Knopf, Chris	***	<a href="#"><u>Sep 08</u></a>	<b>Nailed.</b> Protagonist Sam Acquillo returns in third Southhampton mystery, this time as a suspect in the murder of a builder who was killed with Sam's construction stapler. An intelligent reader's mystery.	




Two Time	Knopf, Chris	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	<a href="https://www.amazon.com">Buy @ amazon.com</a>
<a href="#">The Leavers</a>	Ko, Lisa	*****	<a href="#">6/27/17</a>	<p><b>Deported.</b> Lisa Ko's debut novel titled, <a href="#">The Leavers</a>, packs a wallop. Set in New York City and China, the novel tells the story of a mother, Polly, and her son, Deming, from both their perspectives. Polly became an undocumented immigrant who was deported to China, leaving Deming behind in New York where he is adopted and renamed Daniel. Ko presents the stories of Polly and Deming, their separation and reunion, with finely written prose and astute insight into the immigrant experience, especially the travail of the detention of undocumented workers. The emotional depth of the shared loss of years of separation for Polly and Deming is one of the strengths of this finely written novel.</p>	
Good Profit: How Creating Value for Others Built One of the World's Most Successful Companies	Koch, Charles G.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<a href="#">Dear Mr. M.</a>	Koch, Herman	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<a href="#">Summer House with Swimming Pool</a>	Koch, Herman	*****	<a href="#">7/9/14</a>	<p><b>Shadows.</b> It takes a special writer to lead readers to appreciate the dark side of human nature. Herman Koch is such a writer, and may be an acquired taste. In <a href="#">Summer House with Swimming Pool</a>, we have a group of unsympathetic characters and things are not necessarily as they appear. This is a psychological novel with deep questions at play. To what lengths will a parent go to protect a child?</p>	

What constitutes murder? The title refers to the setting for a major part of the novel: a vacation home where three different families have come together on holiday. Suspend judgment, pay attention, and you're likely to enjoy the time spent exploring some dimensions of the dark side of our nature.

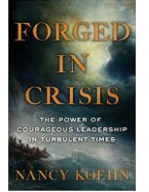

<a href="#"><u>The Dinner</u></a>	Koch, Herman	****	<a href="#"><u>3/7/13</u></a>	<p><b>Monsters.</b> Sometimes even the best meals can be hard to swallow. Herman Koch presents an extended family in his novel, <a href="#"><u>The Dinner</u></a>, and structures the book to match the stages of dining out in a fine restaurant. This is a dark novel in which Koch reveals the darkness of our worst behavior: inhumanity to each other. The tension in the novel remains taut throughout, and the pacing is slow, allowing for gradual revelation of what has happened that led up to this meal. The tension finally breaks with an ending that is unlikely to satisfy all readers. Some of the characters could be considered monsters, and they are not necessarily the ones you suspect. If you like psychological novels and books that make you keep thinking after you finish them, you should consider reading this one.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>The Ditch</u></a>	Koch, Herman	****	<a href="#"><u>8/5/19</u></a>	<p><b>Marriages.</b> All is not well in the life of the mayor of Amsterdam as presented in the novel by Herman Koch titled, <a href="#"><u>The Ditch</u></a>. While the mayor gives us his name as Robert Walter, that is not his name, nor is his wife named Silvia. Koch explores the interactions of couples in marriage and exposes the consequences of what is not expressed with clarity. Robert has suspicions. Sylvia has been and will always be a foreigner. Robert's own parents are another study in being both together and apart. A formative experience of Robert's is revealed late in the novel, as well as the meaning of the title of the novel. Koch riffs on trust and distrust in many</p>	
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aspects and patient readers are rewarded by the end of the novel with insights about what has been going on in this entertaining novel.

Darjeeling: A History of the World's Greatest Tea	Koehler, Jeff	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
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Forged in Crisis: The Power of Courageous Leadership in Turbulent Times

	Koehn, Nancy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
America Against the World	Kohut, Andrew	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

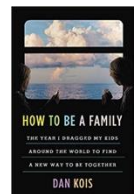
How to Be a Family: The Year I Dragged My Kids Around the World to Find a New Way to Be Together

Kois, Dan

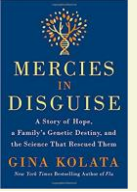
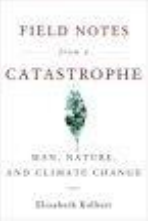

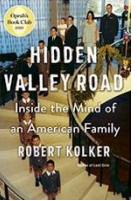
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10/12/20

**Nurture.** The ground in which things grow plays a big role in how something thrives or withers. For a family, that ground is a neighborhood, community or town. In his book titled, How to Be a Family: The Year I Dragged My Kids Around the World to Find a New Way to Be Together, Dan Kojs describes the year he, his wife, and their two daughters spent living in four different places. Packed with candor and humor, Kojs mines the ups and downs of family dynamics at play as they depart their home in Arlington, Virginia to spend three-month stints in New Zealand, Holland, Costa Rica and Hays, Kansas. The culture in each place supports the ways in which families live and interact with neighbors. If you've ever thought about packing up and living in a place different from what's been familiar,

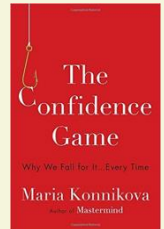


you're likely to find this book instructive and interesting. General readers can enjoy the vicarious pleasure and pain of how Kois and his family learned what nurture looks like in different places.

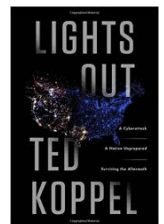
<a href="#"><u>Mercies in Disguise</u></a>	Kolata, Gina	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<a href="#"><u>Field Notes from a Catastrophe</u></a>	Kolbert, Elizabeth	*****	<a href="#"><u>June 06</u></a>	<b>Hot.</b> Sober, clearly written book that lays out the facts about global warming in a calm way, and calls attention to what will happen if changes aren't made.	
<a href="#"><u>The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History</u></a>	Kolbert, Elizabeth	*****	<a href="#"><u>4/24/14</u></a>	<b>Pattern.</b> Science writing for general readers can be a real challenge. How well does an author remain true to the science presented and also present information that engages non-scientific readers? Elizabeth Kolbert meets that challenge in her book, <a href="#"><u>The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History</u></a> . She reviews prior mass extinctions of species and assembles the pattern of the sixth: the way man is changing the biosphere. She places events in the broader context of life's history. Kolbert draws on the work of biologists, botanists, geologists and others to help all readers understand what we are doing to our world. This is a finely written book about a difficult subject and any general reader will come away from it with increased knowledge and a deeper concern about our future.	
<a href="#"><u>Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family</u></a>	Kolker, Robert	*****	<a href="#"><u>6/24/20</u></a>	<b>Schizophrenia.</b> Readers won't soon forget the Galvin family after completing Robert Kolker's exposition in his book titled, <a href="#"><u>Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family</u></a> . Don and Mimi Galvin had twelve children starting in the	

mid-1940s and ending in the mid-1960s. Six of the children developed schizophrenia. Through extensive interviews with family members, scientists and others, Kolker offers life stories that describe situations that will make most readers uncomfortable. Once a reader opens the door to come inside, it will be hard to leave the Galvin family dynamics. While telling a personal story, Kolker also describes the development of science over the same time period and how the Galvin family influenced research and treatment for this disease.

**Belief.** Our brains are hardwired toward belief, and that's one reason why we are all susceptible to being conned, according to Maria Konnikova in her book titled, [The Confidence Game: Why We Fall for It . . . Every Time](#). We've all been conned, and some of us may not know it. Readers who enjoy evidence-based nonfiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this interesting and entertaining book. I found it interesting to read that most con games have more to do with power than with money. Con artists understand human nature and behavior very well, and they find ways in which to encourage us to do what we most want to do.

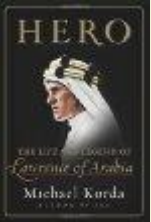

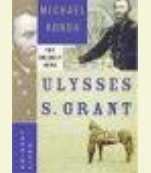

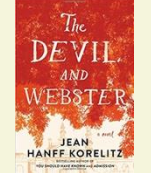
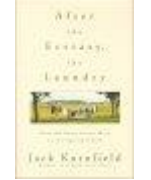


**Alarm.** I admit that I had some trouble sleeping for several nights after reading Ted Koppel's book titled, [Lights Out: A Cyberattack, A Nation Unprepared, Surviving the Aftermath](#). My fright came from Koppel's description of how a cyber attack on the power grid could impact Americans, especially those of us living in large cities. To say the least, Koppel makes the case that we are vulnerable and unprepared. If by any chance you have any shortage of nightmares in your life, be sure to read this book.



<a href="#"><u>The Confidence Game: Why We Fall for It . . . Every Time</u></a>	Konnikova, Maria	*****	<a href="#"><u>6/9/16</u></a>	
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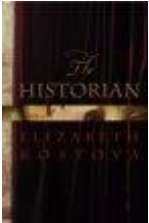

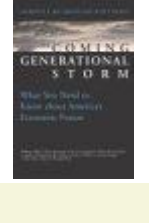
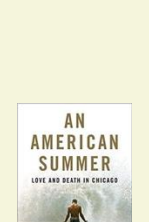

<a href="#"><u>Lights Out: A Cyberattack, A Nation Unprepared, Surviving the Aftermath</u></a>	Koppel, Ted	*****	<a href="#"><u>2/25/16</u></a>	
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Hero: The Life and Legend of Lawrence of Arabia	Korda, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
Ike: An American Hero	Korda, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Ulysses S. Grant: The Unlikely Hero	Korda, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
With Wings Like Eagles: A History of the Battle of Britain	Korda, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
<u>The Devil and Webster</u>	Korelitz, Jean Hanff	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<u>After the Ecstasy, the Laundry</u>	Kornfield, Jack	***	<u>Apr 02</u>	Kornfield brings his experience as a Buddhist monk and clinical psychologist to this book. Loved the messages of tolerance.	



<a href="#"><u>How It Happened</u></a>	Kortya, Michael	*****	<a href="#"><u>7/24/18</u></a>	<p><b>Puzzle.</b> I enjoy those murder mysteries that require one's brain to be engaged, and the latest one I've liked is Michael Kortya's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>How It Happened</u></a>. Set in a small Maine town, we know the victims and we know the murderer. The remaining question is the one in the book's title. Protagonist Rob Barrett is an FBI investigator who risks his career to answer that key question. A supporting cast of complex and interesting characters add to the mix. I enjoyed every minute spent on the Maine roads, following the twists and turns of the path to solve an intriguing puzzle. Even the dead ends were satisfying.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>If She Wakes</u></a>	Koryta, Michael	*****	<a href="#"><u>8/5/19</u></a>	<p><b>Driving.</b> The latest thriller by Michael Koryta is a novel titled, <a href="#"><u>If She Wakes</u></a>. The title makes reference to the vegetative state of Tara Beckley, who was in a car crash. Protagonist Anny Kaplan is an insurance adjuster looking into the crash, and she knows a lot about driving, thanks to her former career as a stunt car driver. Things are not as they appear, and Koryta drives Amy and readers on a trip that has lots of curves and accelerations. Readers who like well-written thrillers are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Last Words</u></a>	Koryta, Michael	*****	<a href="#"><u>8/12/16</u></a>	<p><b>Cave.</b> There are several things I think Michael Koryta does so well in his novel, <a href="#"><u>Last Words</u></a>, to appeal to those readers who love suspense. Part of the novel takes place in a cavern in Indiana, and it is that place, what it means to several characters, and what happened in the past and the present, that provides the context for the plot, and Koryta describes that place to chilling effect. Second, the characters are complicated, interesting, and often troubled by life changing events. Finally, by use of a hypnotist as a key character, Koryta allows the effect of trance to confuse what is real and what may be imagined. The suspense involves a search</p>	

				<p>for truth, and in a cave called Trapdoor, what could possibly go wrong?</p> <p><b>Infrastructure.</b> Not long after I finished reading Michael Koryta's novel, <i>Last Words</i>, I quickly read his second novel to feature protagonist Markus Novak titled, <u>Rise the Dark</u>. While this novel stands well on its own, a reader's insight into the depth of character is enhanced from having read the prior novel. Novak wants to find his wife's killer, and much of the suspense in this thriller involves his quest. Koryta captures setting so well in this novel, especially rural Montana. A major part of the plot involves the vulnerability of our infrastructure to sabotage, and that component adds to the taut tension that provides plot momentum. Readers who love fast-paced thrillers are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	
<u>Rise the Dark</u>	Koryta, Michael	*****	<u>9/16/16</u>		
<u>Those Who Wish Me Dead</u>	Koryta, Michael	*****	<u>8/8/14</u>	<p><b>Wildfire.</b> Readers who enjoy getting chills while reading thrillers are those most likely to enjoy reading Michael Koryta's fast-paced novel titled, <u>Those Who Wish Me Dead</u>. Protagonist Jace Wilson is a fourteen-year old boy who found himself in the wrong place at the wrong time. He observed two creepy guys, the Blackwell brothers, kill someone. Now, as the title references, they wish him dead. Jace receives a new identity and is sent to Montana's wilderness while the police track down the Blackwells. The action accelerates on every page, and the plot twists are very satisfying. Fire plays a big part in this novel, and with all the wildfires in the American west this year, I could almost smell the smoke as I read this entertaining novel.</p>	

The Historian	Kostova, Elizabeth	Unread	Shelf of Reproach 2005	
The Swan Thieves	Kostova, Elizabeth	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2011	
The Coming Generational Storm	Kotilkoff, Laurence J.	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<a href="#"><u>An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago</u></a>	Kotlowitz, Alex	*****	<a href="#"><u>5/28/19</u></a> <b>Faces.</b> Crime statistics are cold. In his book titled, <a href="#"><u>An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago</u></a> , Alex Kotlowitz goes behind the numbers to present readers with rich details about the human lives at stake. Based on over two hundred interviews, the book describes the people behind the crime statistics in the violent summer of 2013 in Chicago. Whatever distance each of us may have created between ourselves and those touched by violence, Kotlowitz brings the human faces close to ours in this finely written book. Empathy and understanding are likely to follow from this encounter.	
<a href="#"><u>Never a City So Real</u></a>	Kotlowitz, Alex	***	<a href="#"><u>Oct 04</u></a> <b>Characters.</b> Unpretentious people and their stories capture the essence of Chicago. Kotlowitz reveals them as they are, and their stories form the city itself.	

A Sense of Urgency	Kotter, John P.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009. Gave up on page 39. Not urgent enough, I guess.	
<a href="#"><u>The Heart of Change: Real-Life Stories of How People Change Their Organizations</u></a>	Kotter, John P. and Dan S. Cohen	****	<a href="#"><u>Oct 02</u></a>	<b>Pumping.</b> Kotter proposes more feeling and less thinking to accomplish large-scale change. Lots of brief and memorable stories from real workers and managers to show how each proposed step can be carried out.	
<a href="#"><u>John P. Kotter on What Leaders Really Do</u></a>	Kotter, John. P	***	<a href="#"><u>6/00</u></a>	Reprints of classic leadership articles under one cover. Helps with concrete description of what leaders and managers do in very specific terms.	
<a href="#"><u>One Day We'll All Be Dead and None of This Will Matter</u></a>	Koul, Scaachi	****	<a href="#"><u>10/18/17</u></a>	<b>Lively.</b> The zany essays in the debut collection by Scaachi Koul titled, <a href="#"><u>One Day We'll All Be Dead and None of This Will Matter</u></a> , are funny and well-written. Koul writes about aspects of modern life with a great voice that is rooted in compassion and love of family. Introspective essays can become tedious, but Koul covers topics like race and gender in ways that are simultaneously thoughtful, funny and sensitive. While she writes about growing up in Canada, her observations can be universal.	
Innocence; or, Murder on Steep Street	Kovály, Heda Margoulis	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

Ordinary Resurrections

Kozol, Jonathan

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6/00

We've enjoyed his earlier books, and expect this one to be a pleasure to read.



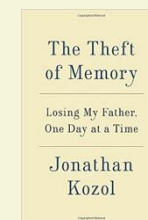
The Theft of Memory: Losing My Father, One Day at a Time

Kozol, Jonathan

\*\*\*\*

1/19/16

**Grief.** I was familiar with Jonathan Kozol from reading his books about poor children and education many years ago. From the title of his new book, The Theft of Memory, I expected a personal story about dementia and its toll on patients and caregivers. Instead, I found a finely written tribute by a loving son to his father, marked by feelings of loss and grief. Dr. Harry Kozol had a long career as a renowned neuropsychiatrist. Thanks to the fine writing of his son, Jonathan, readers can learn about his life and death. It no spoiler to say that Harry's life from ages 88 to 102 involved decline.



Accountability Leadership: How to Strengthen Productivity through Sound Managerial Leadership

Kraines, Gerald A.

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Feb 02

It's the boss's fault. If you're in charge, read this, feel a little guilty, and think twice about adopting Kraines' system.



Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town

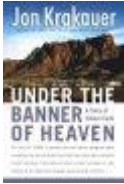
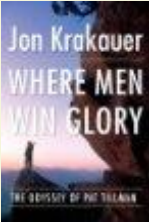
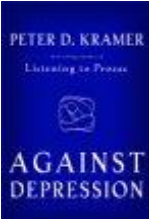
Krakauer, Jon

\*\*\*\*


5/26/15

**Assault.** Rape is not a subject that many readers will place at the top of one's reading list. Thanks to Jon Krakauer's finely written book titled, Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town, many people will read and think about this important topic. No matter what you think you know about sexual assault, chances are high that you will learn something new from reading this book. Krakauer offers great insight into the reasons for the reactions of victims, especially those who had been drinking, and whose assault came from



				<p>someone known to the victim. Any reader with a child heading to or on a college campus will benefit from reading this book and talking about the cases presented.</p>	
<a href="#">Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith</a>	Krakauer, Jon	***	<a href="#">Sep 03</a>	<p><b>Quest for Truth.</b> Well-written exploration of the sources and formation of modern Mormon Fundamentalists and their violent and bloody quest for creating and preserving religious faith in the West.</p>	
<a href="#">Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman</a>	Krakauer, Jon	***	<a href="#">11/21/09</a>	<p><b>Respect.</b> Jon Krakauer knows how to tell a story, and his latest book, <a href="#">Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman</a>, presents the heroic and tragic life of an amazing person. Most readers are likely to know the outline of Pat's life story: the NFL player who left fame and wealth to enlist in the Army following 9/11, and who was killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan. Thanks to Krakauer's account, readers can know more about the character of Tillman, his respect for others, and the ways in which he was comfortable as a nonconformist, always testing the limits of his abilities. As Krakauer presented Pat from childhood on, I became fascinated by the building of character over time, and became saddened by the ways in which Tillman did not receive the respect he deserved, especially from the military leaders who tried to manipulate the truth about his death.</p>	
Against Depression	Kramer, Peter D.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	



<a href="#">Forest Dark</a>	Krause, Nicole	*****	<a href="#">10/13/17</a>	<p><b>Transcendent.</b> Fans of finely written prose are those readers most likely to enjoy Nicole Krause's novel titled, <a href="#">Forest Dark</a>. Krause weaves two alternating stories featuring two protagonists: one a female writer, and the other a male millionaire. As with each of us, these characters are trying to find their place and purpose in life. Separately, they wind up in Israel, both staying at the Tel Aviv Hilton. Jules Epstein has been giving away his fortune and is becoming detached from his former life, transcending it for something else. The writer has a troubled marriage, and hasn't been writing. She stumbles onto Kafka writings that had never been published. There's a transcendental quality to Krause's prose as she glides from one narrative to another, and as we glimpse into the ways in which these characters find their places in or outside of this world.</p>	
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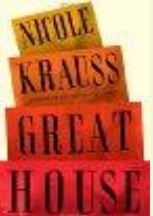
Hiding in the Mirror

Krauss, Lawrence M.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



Great House	Krauss, Nicole	Unread		I read as far as page 23, but could not maintain interest, so I stopped. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	
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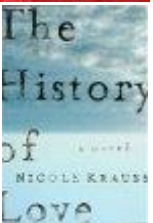
[The History of Love](#)


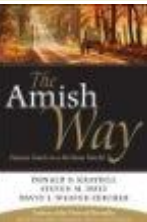
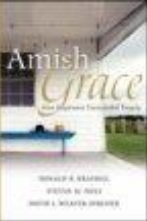
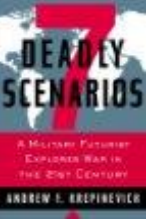
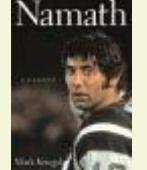
Krauss, Nicole

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[Nov 05](#)

**Connections.** Complicated and finely written novel with multiple narrators, complex characters with recognizable deep emotions and relationships and connections that generate empathy from readers.



<a href="#"><u>To Be a Man</u></a>	Krauss, Nicole	****	<a href="#"><u>12/21/20</u></a>	<b>Voices.</b> The ten stories in the collection by Nicole Krauss titled, <a href="#"><u>To Be a Man</u></a> , seemed to speak to each other as well as to readers. Across multiple times and places, the stories explore identity in ways that are familiar and strange. The prose is finely written, and the insights into human nature are often profound. I felt the tension among relatable characters as they engage with each other. These are our voices in the stories, this is our life, this is our experience.	
The Amish Way: Patient Faith in a Perilous World	Kraybill, Donald B., Steven M. Nolt and David L. Weaver-Zercher	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
<a href="#"><u>Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy</u></a>	Kraybill, Donald B., Steven M. Nolt, and David L. Weaver-Zercher	***	<a href="#"><u>Feb 08</u></a>	<b>Forgiveness.</b> Three teachers collaborate to explain to outsiders how after ten children were shot and five killed in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania, the members of the Amish community forgave the shooter.	
7 Deadly Scenarios: A Military Futurist Explores War in the 21st Century	Krepinevich, Andrew	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
Namath: A Biography	Kriegel, Mark	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	

The Orange Eats  
Creeps

Krilanovich,  
Grace

Unread

While I think I have eclectic reading tastes, this experimental novel was just too weird for me, so I gave up after just a few pages. Read a sample before you take on this unusual book. Shelf of Ennui 2011.



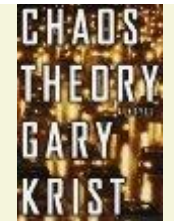
Chaos Theory

Krist, Gary

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4/00

A well-written, fast paced thriller. Great character development and exposition. Recommended.



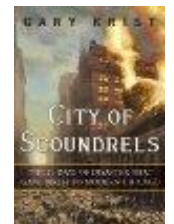
City of  
Scoundrels: The  
12 Days of  
Disaster That  
Gave Birth to  
Modern Chicago

Krist, Gary

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6/15/12

**Characters.** History can come alive when a writer fleshes out particular characters and tells an engaging story of their lives and time. Gary Krist enlivens the characters in his book, City of Scoundrels: The 12 Days of Disaster That Gave Birth to Modern Chicago. Set over the course of a dozen days in 1919, Krist tells of a dirigible crash in the central business district, a race riot at a hot beach, the murder of a child and a transit strike. Since this is set in Chicago, some of the liveliest characters are the politicians. This is a great story and it is well told. Readers who like history, especially those with an interest in Chicago, are those most likely to enjoy this book.



Empire of Sin: A  
Story of Sex,  
Jazz, Murder,  
and the Battle  
for Modern New  
Orleans


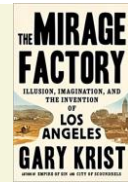


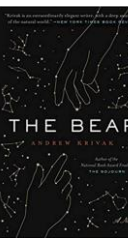
Krist, Gary

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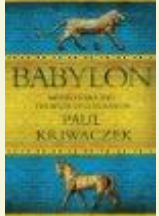
1/16/15

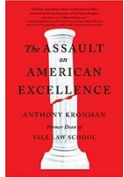
**Lively.** Any reader who recognizes how lively a place New Orleans has been during our own lifetimes will discover that even more excitement was in that place at the turn of the twentieth century after reading Gary Krist's fine account of that period titled, Empire of Sin: A Story of Sex, Jazz, Murder, and the Battle for Modern New Orleans. Krist immerses readers into a world of corruption using vivid details to bring that era to life. The characters Krist offers to readers reveal the

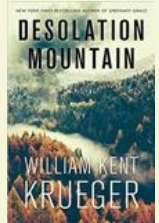


				full range of human behavior, and I found myself engrossed in their exciting lives.	
<a href="#">Extravagance</a>	Krist, Gary	***	<a href="#">Dec 02</a>	<i>To Market, To Market.</i> Masterful story of the market and players in 1690s London and 1990s New York. Clever, timely, witty presentation of character and moral behavior.	
<a href="#">The Mirage Factory</a>	Krist, Gary	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<a href="#">The White Cascade</a>	Krist, Gary	***	<a href="#">Apr 07</a>	<b>Trapped.</b> Well-written page-turner about a 1910 rail disaster that killed 96 people in Washington's Cascade Mountains. Debut non-fiction by successful novelist.	
<a href="#">Catfishing on CatNet</a>	Kritzer, Naomi	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<a href="#">The Bear</a>	Krivak, Andrew	*****	<a href="#">3/13/20</a>	<b>Harmony.</b> No other people are here. That's the setting for Andrew Krivak's finely written novel titled, <a href="#">The Bear</a> . A father grieves the death of his wife and raises his daughter so she will know how to survive after he dies. Most readers will be drawn at once into the lives of these survivors, and thanks to Krivak's lyrical prose, we will walk with them and hunt and fish and struggle. We will feel the cold and smell the mountain and sea. Survival requires harmony with nature, and the girl achieves her place in this world without other people in a way that she never seems lonely or empty. Fans of	

literary fiction and those who appreciate well-crafted prose are those most likely to enjoy this outstanding novel.

Babylon: Mesopotamia and the Birth of Civilization	Kriwaczek, Paul	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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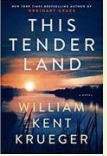


<u>The Assault on American Excellence</u>	Kronman, Anthony	*****	<u>10/10/19</u>	<p><b>Academy.</b> It's time to stop the nonsense at universities. That's the message of Anthony Kronman, former dean of Yale Law School, in his book titled, <u>The Assault on American Excellence</u>. He calls for universities to return to their principles and stop yielding to those pressing for actions that avoid discomforting students and create greater egalitarianism. Perhaps it was the way in which the administration at Yale flip flopped on the issue of renaming Calhoun Hall that set off Kronman. Readers interested in the state of the academy today are those most likely to enjoy reading this book, whether one agrees or disagrees with Kronman. I found lots of clear thinking on these pages, to my delight.</p>	
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<u>Desolation Mountain</u>	Krueger, William Kent	*****	<u>9/24/18</u>	<p><b>Dream.</b> Fans of the long-running Cork O'Connor mystery series by William Kent Krueger are those readers most likely to enjoy the seventeenth installment, a novel titled, <u>Desolation Mountain</u>. All those readers will enjoy becoming reacquainted with the large cast of interesting and complex characters. Cork's son, Stephen, has had a dream vision that he is trying to figure out with Henry. Following a mysterious plane crash on Desolation Mountain, part of the dream begins to make sense. The plot of this novel includes faster paced action than usual for this series, and I know I read this novel faster than I usually do. Krueger masters</p>	
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				setting, plot and character development in ways that continue to please fans of this series. I was thoroughly entertained.	
<a href="#"><u>Manitou Canyon</u></a>	Krueger, William Kent	*****	<a href="#"><u>9/23/16</u></a>	<p><b>November.</b> In the fifteenth novel of the Cork O'Connor series by William Kent Krueger, it's pretty clear that this protagonist has plenty of reasons to dislike November. Titled <a href="#"><u>Manitou Canyon</u></a>, this novel draws readers more deeply into the remote Boundary Waters area between Minnesota and Canada. The weather is turning foul, but Cork feels an obligation to take on a case, despite coming close on his daughter's wedding date. Fans of the series will enjoy all the familiar characters. The past, especially November events, has a strong influence on the present. The case is packed with tense action, the plot is engaging, the characters complex and interesting, and the overall novel highly entertaining.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Sulfur Springs</u></a>	Krueger, William Kent	*****	<a href="#"><u>9/25/17</u></a>	<p><b>Arizona.</b> The action in the sixteenth novel in the Cork O'Connor mystery series by William Kent Krueger moves from the familiar home base in Minnesota to rural Arizona. In the novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Sulfur Springs</u></a>, Cork and his new bride Rainy Bisonette fly in haste to Arizona after she receives a hard-to-interpret message from her son Peter about a murder. Fans of the series will enjoy the well-developed characters, great storytelling, and a good mystery.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Tamarack County</u></a>	Krueger, William Kent	*****	<a href="#"><u>10/25/13</u></a>	<p><b>Mercy.</b> William Kent Krueger is one of those rare fiction writers who chooses a harder path when writing a series of novels: his protagonist becomes deeper and more complex as more is written about him. Many other writers return to themes that are familiar to readers. For Krueger, while each novel is built on what came before, there is new ground tilled with every new novel. The thirteenth novel in his crime series featuring protagonist Cork</p>	



O'Connor is titled [Tamarack County](#). While O'Connor has spent decades focused on justice, he needs to lean toward mercy in this novel, both for himself and for others. I enjoyed the complexity of the relationships in this novel, the plot suspense, and the depth of character development. Readers who like to read crime fiction should consider reading this book and this series.

<a href="#">This Tender Land</a>	Krueger, William Kent	****	<a href="#">10/15/19</a>	<p><b>Storyteller.</b> The action in William Kent Krueger's novel titled, <a href="#">This Tender Land</a>, takes place in the summer of 1932. The United States is in the throes of the Great Depression. Farmers have lost their livelihoods, and desperate people are living in Hoovervilles where conditions are horrible. Using gorgeous prose, Krueger deploys thirteen-year-old narrator Odysseus O'Banion to draw readers into one pivotal summer when Odie and three other orphans escape from the abusive Lincoln School in Minnesota and take a river journey toward a new life. Readers who love gripping storytelling are those most likely to enjoy this finely written novel.</p> <p><b>Evil.</b> The latest Cork O'Connor mystery by William Kent Krueger is titled, <a href="#">Windigo Island</a>. Fans of the series will find many reprised characters along with a satisfying plot. The subject of the novel involves sex trafficking of Native American women, and Cork's daughter, Jenny, plays a major role in battling the evil forces at play in this novel. Krueger presents evil in ways that will cause shivers among most readers, especially on dark and stormy nights.</p>	
<a href="#">Windigo Island</a>	Krueger, William Kent	****	<a href="#">12/15/14</a>		
The Cello Player	Kruger, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	

Ordinary Grace

Kruger, William  
Kent

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7/16/13

**Brokenness.** Any reader looking for a reaffirmation of the basic goodness in humanity will enjoy reading William Kent Kruger's finely written novel, Ordinary Grace. Narrated by Frank Drum at age 53, the action in the novel takes place during the summer of 1961 in the small town of New Bremen, Minnesota, when Frank was 13. Every member of the Drum family and each character in the novel suffers from some form of brokenness. What Kruger develops so well in these characters and in the plot is the transformation from the broken part of our human condition toward caring, love and understanding. Readers on any spiritual journey will find familiar themes in this novel. I finished this novel and felt good about myself, my community, and all of humanity.



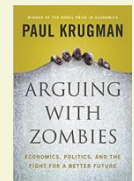
Arguing with  
Zombies:  
Economics,  
Politics, and the  
Fight for a  
Better Future

Krugman, Paul

\*\*\*\*

4/9/20

**Clarity.** Among economists, including other Nobel prize winners, Paul Krugman writes with clarity. Over the past two decades, he uses the platform of *The New York Times* to convey his voice about a variety of issues with stark, often blunt, clarity, and he takes on foes mercilessly. In a book titled, Arguing with Zombies: Economics, Politics, and the Fight for a Better Future, Krugman organizes a collection of past columns by topic, and opens each theme with his current perspective, often involving how he was right then and he is right now. Whether you agree or disagree with Krugman, he writes with great skill and, as the title indicates, he continues to do battle with dead ideas: the zombie notions that have been proven wrong again and again but never seem to die. So, read about tax cuts, deficits, trade wars, social security, inequality, austerity, the climate and more. Smile when you agree, fume when you disagree, but admire his clarity.



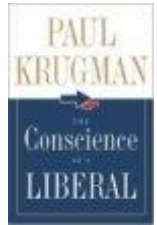
[The Conscience of a Liberal](#)

Krugman, Paul

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[Dec 07](#)

**Democracy.** Economist and New York Times columnist calls for a new New Deal that will made America stronger by bringing our actions closer to our democratic ideals.



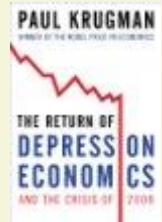
[The Return of Depression Economics and the Crisis of 2008](#)

Krugman, Paul

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[3/20/09](#)

**Understanding.** Krugman makes the case in his new book, [The Return of Depression Economics and the Crisis of 2008](#), that we have a scarcity of understanding, not resources. He claims that “the only important obstacles to world prosperity are the obsolete doctrines that clutter the minds of men.” If you have any interest in uncluttering your mind and achieving some degree of understanding, consider reading this fine book. Krugman writes in a clear style, and uses plenty of examples to illustrate his key points. This book updates the one he wrote in 1999 on the same general topic. The intervening years have made his message even more compelling: we need to abandon the conventional thinking that’s getting us nowhere. This engaging and thought-provoking book led me to reexamine my thinking, and to consider the degree to which my mind is cluttered with obsolete thoughts. I highly recommend this book to any reader interested in exploring our economic problems.



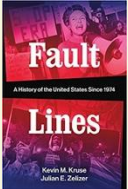
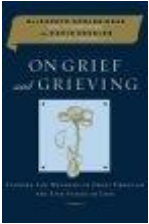

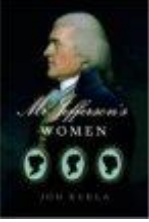

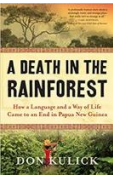
[One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America](#)

Kruse, Kevin M.

Unread


Shelf of Ennui 2016.



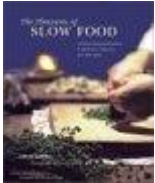
<a href="#"><u>Fault Lines: A History of the United States Since 1974</u></a>	Kruse, Kevin M. and Julian E. Zelizer	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
On Grief and Grieving	Kubler-Ross, Elizabeth	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2005	
<a href="#"><u>Beauty Junkies</u></a>	Kuczynski, Alex	***	<a href="#"><u>Jan 07</u></a>	<b>Mortality.</b> <i>New York Times</i> writer and cosmetic surgery junkie tells her story and that of millions of others who have sought any means possible to forestall aging, improve appearance, and become somehow enhanced.	
Mr. Jefferson's Women	Kukla, Jon	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<a href="#"><u>Flu: The Story of the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and the Search for the Virus That Caused It</u></a>	Kulata, Gina	***	<a href="#"><u>6/00</u></a>	Kulata pieces together this fast-paced exposition of a story that has been neglected by others. Recommended.	
<a href="#"><u>A Death in the Rainforest: How a Language and a Way of Life Came to an End</u></a>	Kulick, Don	****	<a href="#"><u>10/25/19</u></a>	<b>Isolated.</b> Readers interested in learning about the work of an anthropologist should consider a book by Professor Don Kulick of Uppsala University titled, <a href="#"><u>A Death in the Rainforest: How a Language and a Way of Life Came to an End in Papua New</u></a>	

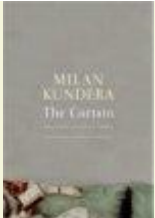
in Papua New Guinea

Guinea. Over the course of three decades, Kulick spent time in Papua New Guinea documenting an isolated language, Tayap. Kulick tells us the story of these people and how they live in a changing world, as he takes us behind the scenes to show what an anthropologist does. Reading this book reminded me why my undergraduate major in anthropology never led to graduate school or to fieldwork.


<u>Immigrant, Montana</u>	Kumar, Amitava	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
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The Pleasures of Slow Food: Celebrating Authentic Traditions, Flavors, and Recipes

Kummer, Corby	***	<u>June 03</u>	<b>Triple Treat.</b> <i>Atlantic</i> columnist presents comprehensive introduction to the global slow food movement, captivating photography, and a stewpot of recipes.	
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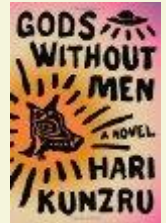
The Curtain	Kundera, Milan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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The Festival of Insignificance

Kundera, Milan	***	<u>10/15/15</u>	<b>Navel.</b> If ours is the age of navel gazing, then Milan Kundera's novel, <u>The Festival of Insignificance</u> , is our anthem. Light and philosophical, serious and tongue in cheek, Kundera's writing in this book and others can be an acquired taste. From p.113: "Insignificance, my friend, is the essence of existence. It is all around us, and everywhere and always. ... But it is not only a matter of acknowledging it, we must love insignificance we must lean to love it." If this meditation on the navel sounds like your kind of book, go for it. I often	
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enjoyed the rambling prose, and was most pleased when it was finished.

**Searching.** A rock formation called The Pinnacles provides the backdrop to the action in Hari Kunzru's novel, Gods Without Men. Kunzru presents a story of a search for meaning capitalizing on the desert journey experience used for millennia of stories, and adds a quirky UFO dimension for modern interest: the role of the Ashtar Galactic Command. While Kunzru uses various time periods to present the story of our ongoing search for meaning, the part that gripped me most was the modern story of the search for a missing child. Readers looking for a well told but somewhat odd story are those most likely to enjoy this novel.



Gods Without Men

Kunzru, Hari

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4/10/12

Transmission

Kunzru, Hari

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



White Tears

Kunzru, Hari

\*\*\*\*

4/19/17

**Blues.** Hari Kunzru wrote almost three hundred pages of a novel titled, White Tears, that puts into prose all the complex art of a classic blues song. Many contrasts under tension are included: rich and poor; black and white; exploiters and the exploited; the past and the present; analog and digital. The plot involves a rare blues song and the legacy of that music across time. The deep emotions of the blues permeate the novel and Kunzru pulls readers back and forth across time and characters until we fall under the spell of his art.





<a href="#"><u>Tempting Faith</u></a>	Kuo, David	***	<a href="#"><u>Apr 07</u></a>	<b>Impressionable.</b> An inside view of White House life by the former deputy director of the Office of Faith-Based Initiatives, coupled with the author's personal story and his disillusionment about promises not kept.	
<a href="#"><u>dot.bomb: My Days and Nights at an Internet Goliath</u></a>	Kuo, J. David	****	<a href="#"><u>Feb 02</u></a>	Entertaining tale of how Craig Winn led Value America toward success and failure, with Kuo trying to help.	
<a href="#"><u>The Last Word</u></a>	Kureishi, Hanif	****	<a href="#"><u>12/4/15</u></a>	<b>Artists.</b> Many complex dynamics are at play in Hanif Kureishi's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Last Word</u></a> . A young writer has been selected to write a biography of a writer in his seventies. The publisher who set this in motion wants to stimulate sales of the older writer's backlist. The relationship between the two writers provides tension and wit as young Harry and old Mamoon circle each other as artists and try to exploit the situation for themselves. I enjoyed Kureishi's prose, but my patience was often close to its limit as I read on not observing much character development. Read a sample before you plunge into this novel.	
<a href="#"><u>The Nothing</u></a>	Kureishi, Hanif	****	<a href="#"><u>2/22/18</u></a>	<b>Curtains.</b> A short novel by Hanif Kureishi titled, <a href="#"><u>The Nothing</u></a> , is a portrait of an artist as a dying man. The novel is set in London and features protagonist Waldo, a filmmaker, as he produces his grand finale: his death. Kureishi understands revenge and writes with great skill about the sexual tension between Waldo, his wife Zee, and an acquaintance named Eddie. Fans of black humor and finely written literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.	

1968: The Year That Rocked the World

Kurlansky, Mark

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



Birdseye: The Adventures of a Curious Man

Kurlansky, Mark

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



Milk!: A 10,000-Year Food Fracas

Kurlansky, Mark

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

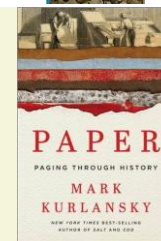


Paper: Paging Through History

Kurlansky, Mark

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.



The Last Fish Tale: The Fate of the Atlantic and Survival in Gloucester, America's Oldest Fishing Port and Most Original Town

Kurlansky, Mark

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Sep 08

**Caught.** Author describes how Gloucester came to be what it is, and explores what it might become. Engaging tales, insight, personal drawings and recipes all combine to catch a reader's interest and concern.



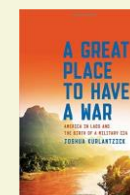
A Great Place to Have a War: America in Laos and the Birth of a Military CIA

Kurlantzick, Joshua

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4/25/17

**Momentum.** I am often humbled by the extent to which I think I am well-informed and then get walloped by the impact of something that happened under my nose and the degree to which I was oblivious or dismissive. A friend suggested I read Joshua Kurlantzick's book titled, A Great Place to



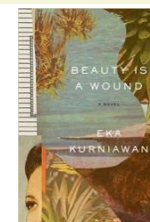
				<p><u>Have a War: America in Laos and the Birth of a Military CIA</u>. I consider myself well-informed about the Vietnam War, and the operations in Cambodia, and thought I was somewhat aware of operations in Laos. Thanks to Kurlantzick, I now understand how significant Operation Momentum in Laos was and how the CIA's wider military operations began in that country and became a key component of American foreign policy from then on. Kurlantzick writes about all the secrecy of extensive and expensive American activities in Laos under the administrations of Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon. He tells the story of the key players: Vang Pao, the Hmong leader, Bill Lair, a CIA operative, Ambassador Bill Sullivan and a contractor named Tony Poe. Readers interested in public policy, especially foreign policy are those most likely to appreciate this finely written book.</p>	
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Beauty Is a Wound

Kurniawan, Eka

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



Shadow Divers

Kurson, Robert

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Apr 05

**Compelling.** Journalist describes how two wreck divers find an unidentified U-boat in deep water, and push themselves to find out all they can about it.



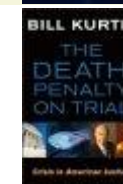
The Death Penalty on Trial: Crisis in American Justice



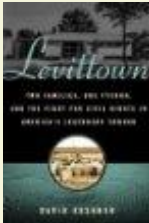
Kurtis, Bill

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Mar 05

**Fragility.** Through two cases, former death penalty supporter reverses position because both cases were rife with errors, proving the justice system isn't working.



MBA in a box : the practical guide to the big ideas of business	Kurtzman, Joel with Victoria Griffith and Glenn Rifkin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
Whipping Boy: The Forty-Year Search for My Twelve-Year- Old Bully	Kurzweil, Allen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
Levittown: Two Families, One Tycoon, and the Fight for Civil Rights in America's Legendary Suburb	Kushner, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	

[The  
Flamethrowers](#)




Kushner, Rachel

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[8/6/13](#)

**Artists.** There are four hundred pages of beautiful prose in Rachel Kushner's novel, [The Flamethrowers](#). I found myself rereading some sentences to marvel at her selection of just the right words to complete a description or to convey an emotion. Protagonist Reno is a motorcycle racing artist who was named after the city where she was born. Kushner presents the life of artists, revolutionary politics, identity and ideas. The path isn't straight and narrow, and most art requires close attention. For those readers with the patience to pay close attention and who are likely to appreciate the beautiful prose, the payout will be a high level of satisfaction. Most readers will know after reading an excerpt whether the novel will be appealing and worth the effort.



<a href="#"><u>The Mars Room</u></a>	Kushner, Rachel	*****	<a href="#"><u>5/22/18</u></a>	<p><b>Prison.</b> Rachel Kushner grabbed me in the first few pages of her novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Mars Room</u></a>, and didn't let go until the very end. Protagonist Romy Hall is heading to prison for a long time and we don't know why for hundreds of pages. But we do get to know life inside prison to such an extent that I started to wonder how much time Kushner spent in prison or whether she ever worked as an exotic dancer. I'm confident that neither is the case, but those thoughts arise because of Kushner's literary skills and the ways in which she draws us into places and the lives of people that are deep and rich. Prison society, poverty and justice are all displayed by Kushner as her finely written prose takes readers to places and people we may not typically encounter in our lives.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Strange Case of Rachel K.</u></a>	Kushner, Rachel	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<a href="#"><u>Can Democracy Survive Global Capitalism?</u></a>	Kuttner, Robert	*****	<a href="#"><u>6/20/18</u></a>	<p><b>Progressive.</b> Conflict and imbalance between labor and capital isn't new, but Robert Kuttner proposes what he views as a clear path toward a contemporary model for balance. In his book titled, <a href="#"><u>Can Democracy Survive Global Capitalism?</u></a>, Kuttner looks at the United States and other countries as he surveys the current state of labor and capital and the consequences of the current state of affairs. He proposes a progressive populism as a way to put some constraints on capitalism so that labor can thrive, communities be sustained, and countries maintain democracy. Whether you agree with his analysis and solutions or not, his writing is clear, and is likely to stimulate the thinking of anyone interested in the health of society and the state of our current world.</p>	

The Squandering of America: How the Failure of our Politics Undermines Our Prosperity

Kuttner, Robert

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Mar 08

**Democracy.** Author calls for active citizens to vote for managed capitalism to regulate markets and extend prosperity from the wealthy few to the average American. A call for adult supervision over financial markets.



China Rich Girlfriend

Kwan, Kevin

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4/21/16

**Possessions.** After reading Kevin Kwan's funny novel, China Rich Girlfriend, for a while, I became weary about all the stuff. Many of the characters engage in competitive spending sprees of one sort or another, and I found myself no longer laughing, but weary of the decadence. Readers who enjoy humorous novels and who wonder what some of the wealthiest people in the world might be like are those who should enjoy reading this novel. By the end of the novel, I felt worn out by all the stuff.



Rich People Problems

Kwan, Kevin

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8/4/17

**Continuation.** Kevin Kwan continues his humorous depiction of the super-rich Young, Leong and Cheng families in a novel titled, Rich People Problems, the third in this series. Set mostly in Singapore, the extended families are gathered in and around the great house called Tyersall Park in which matriarch Sun Yi has fallen ill. While the novel stands on its own, fans of the earlier books will be familiar with most of the characters. I found this novel more interesting than the previous one because of the deeper character development.



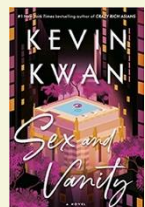
Sex and Vanity

Kwan, Kevin

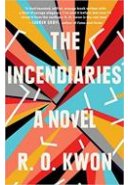

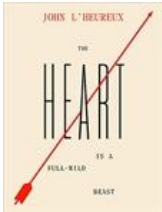
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8/19/20

**Formula.** Kevin Kwan offers fans another comic novel featuring crazy rich people and their decadent lives. There's a romance at the center of this novel titled, Sex and Vanity. While Kwan uses the formula about cultural clash and the behavior of some superrich people that has worked for him in prior novels, he also enhances the complexity of the main characters in this novel so that readers can feel

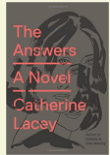


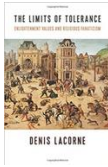


				some nuance which makes the comedy work even better.	
<u><a href="#">The Incendiaries</a></u>	Kwon, R. O.	****	<u>10/12/18</u>	<p><b>Search.</b> During much of life, we are moving toward something or away from something. What is it that we are looking for? Love? Meaning? In her debut novel titled, <u><a href="#">The Incendiaries</a></u>, R.O. Kwon presents the search of Phoebe Lin and Will Kendall from their different perspectives at the start of their college years. Phoebe and Will have secrets from each other, and spiritual and temporal longings that pull them together and apart. Kwon explores what drives us to move toward or away from what we think we are looking for. She writes with great skill and brings readers a long way in a book just over two hundred pages long.</p>	
Daily life in the United States, 1920-1940 : how Americans lived through the "Roaring Twenties" and the Great Depression	Kyvig, David E.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<u><a href="#">The Heart Is a Full-Wild Beast</a></u>	L'Heureux, John	****	<u>7/6/20</u>	<p><b>Stories.</b> The late John L'Heureux didn't seem to spend a lot of time thinking about the small questions in life. Instead, in his collection of stories titled, <u><a href="#">The Heart Is a Full-Wild Beast</a></u>, readers find thoughtful examination of those moments that change lives. This collection is packed with joy, love, humor and celebrates the range of human behavior that brings the world pleasure. No topic seems to be off limits, as L'Heureux finds the love or the connection or the reasons to live and to carry on. I'll miss the ways in which this talented writer helped me and other readers wrestle with what life throws us.</p>	

<a href="#"><u>The Medici Boy</u></a>	L'Heureux, John	*****	<a href="#"><u>5/28/14</u></a>	<p><b>Operatic.</b> Readers who enjoy historical fiction as well as fans of Renaissance art are those most likely to appreciate the setting of John L'Heureux's novel, <a href="#"><u>The Medici Boy</u></a>. The narrator is Luca Mattei, an assistant to Donatello. L'Heureux creates all the elements of fine opera in his novel: a story of love with consequences; betrayal; and occasional comic relief. Florence comes alive in what readers expect of historical fiction: known figures mixed with fictional characters in a speculative narrative. I entered the story quickly as my interest was engaged in the first dozen pages, and I read the novel in a few entertaining sittings.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Miracle</u></a>	L'Heureux, John	***	<a href="#"><u>Dec 02</u></a>	<p><b>Journeys.</b> Superb writing with multiple levels of meaning, rich cadences of language and clear images. Readers looking for a story of life and death, redemption and transformation will enjoy every page.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Certain American States</u></a>	Lacey, Catherine	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<a href="#"><u>Pew</u></a>	Lacey, Catherine	*****	<a href="#"><u>8/19/20</u></a>	<p><b>Silence.</b> What makes you uncomfortable? The characters in Catherine Lacey's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Pew</u></a>, face what makes them uncomfortable, and Lacey's fine writing leads readers toward understanding about human nature and life in modern society. When a family arrives in church one Sunday, they find someone stretched out in their pew. Their religious values lead them to reach out to help this person who seems to be homeless and seems to need help. All the inquiries of this person are met with silence, leaving the community discomfited. What do we call someone who does not disclose a name? They decide to call the person, "Pew." Is Pew</p>	

a man or a woman? After being taken for a medical exam, Pew refuses to remove clothing, leaving the gender classification unresolved. Skin color does not unequivocally establish the sorting classification that some in the community desire. Without the answers from Pew relating to identity, the community members are very uncomfortable. Lacey leads the narrative forward toward the community forgiveness ritual that pulls the story together in ways that may not satisfy all readers. Lacey's prose is finely written, and this novel will appeal to those readers who appreciate thought-provoking literary fiction.

<a href="#"><u>The Answers</u></a>	Lacey, Catherine	****	<a href="#"><u>10/2/17</u></a>	<p><b>Questions.</b> Spoiler alert on Catherine Lacey's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Answers</u></a>: there are no answers. While not providing answers, Lacey does help with sorting out the important questions. Literary novels can help readers think about how we live in the world, and this satiric novel demands a lot of complicated thinking about that question. Protagonist Mary Parsons is sick and broke. A friend steers her to healing for her sickness, but the therapy comes with a high cost. The second job that Mary finds to keep her healthy leads her and readers down a rabbit hole of issues relating to identity and intimacy during a time of big data and income disparity. Lacey's prose can shimmer and readers who enjoy finely written literary fiction that requires patience and attention are those most likely to appreciate this novel.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>The Limits of Tolerance: Enlightenment Values and Religious Fanaticism</u></a>	Lacorne, Denis	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
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<a href="#"><u>The Game-Changer: How You Can Drive Revenue and Profit Growth with Innovation</u></a>	Lafley, A.G. and Ram Charan	****	<a href="#"><u>Oct 08</u></a>	<p><b>Inquisitive.</b> Procter &amp; Gamble CEO collaborates with management guru to present theory and practice of managing innovation. Packed with plenty of examples from P&amp;G and other companies and reflective questions for readers.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Playing to Win: How Strategy Really Works</u></a>	Lafley, A.G. and Roger L. Martin	****	<a href="#"><u>6/25/13</u></a>	<p><b>Practical.</b> Any executive who struggles with strategy should read a practical book by A.G. Lafley and Roger L. Martin titled, <a href="#"><u>Playing to Win: How Strategy Really Works</u></a>. Lafley spent the bulk of his career at Procter and Gamble, and Martin assisted him as a consultant. They led the implementation of many of the theories on strategy developed by Harvard's Michael Porter. In this book, they offer plain speaking about hard thinking, and use their experience to present their view on the do's and don'ts when it comes to strategy. They provide great examples, and most executives will finish this book with a few very useful and practical ways to improve strategy in their own workplaces.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Girl in the Spider's Web</u></a>	Lagercrantz, David	****	<a href="#"><u>10/15/15</u></a>	<p><b>Survived.</b> I was prepared to dislike David Lagercrantz' novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Girl in the Spider's Web</u></a>. After all, Lisbeth Salander is Stieg Larsson's creation, and could another author be both true to this unique character and allow her to develop in new ways? The answer, for me, is a resounding yes. Salander soars in this novel, both consistent to who we have known her to be, and in many ways fresh as we learn new things about her. Mikael Blomkvist is also back, and deep in the thick of things. While some readers of Larsson's Millennium series would have preferred to leave the trilogy alone, I was entertained by spending a few more hours with Salander, and am pleased that the series has been placed in competent hands. I may even want to read another.</p>	

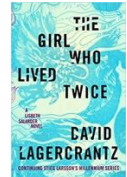
[The Girl Who Lived Twice](#)

Lagercrantz,  
David

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[9/24/19](#)

**Fire.** David Lagercrantz continues the late Stieg Larsson's millennium series featuring Lisbeth Salander with a novel titled, [The Girl Who Lived Twice](#). Fans of the series will enjoy the return of Salander and Mikael Blomkvist in another exciting adventure. Both protagonists are on a search for answers and truth and they need each other's help. Both are driven by a fire inside that propels them on their quests. Physical fire also appears and raises the stakes. Larsson's estate made a wise choice with asking Lagercrantz to continue writing this series. I found this sixth installment as well written and engaging as the ones earlier in the series written by Larsson. Readers who like character-driven action novels are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.



[The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye](#)

Lagercrantz,  
David

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[12/18/17](#)

**Justice.** The fifth Lisbeth Salander novel is titled, [The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye](#), and it was a real joy to be spending time again with the girl with the dragon tattoo. Lisbeth is a kick ass protagonist whose position as an outsider makes her even more powerful. Salander solves mysteries about her own past in this installment while she secures and inflicts justice for others. Fans of the series will enjoy the return of the ensemble of well-developed characters led by Lisbeth and journalist Mikael Blomkvist.



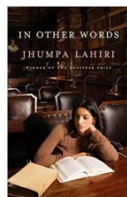
[In Other Words](#)

Lahiri, Jhumpa

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[8/24/16](#)

**Creativity.** Language, identity and culture are all elements that combine into making one feel at home. Our creative artists help us understand those elements, and Jhumpa Lahiri does that extremely well in her book titled, [In Other Words](#). Raised speaking Bengali, Lahiri has won prestigious awards for her writing in English. Living in Italy, she chose to immerse herself in Italian, and wrote this book in Italian. She had someone else provide the English translation, which is side-by-side with



the Italian in this book. Being in a new place can create feelings of exile, and for a creative writer, it is words that tie one to a place. Lahiri offers to all exiles a chance to reflect on the words in our lives and in this book she shares her love of languages in ways that any reader can appreciate.

**Deception.** I loved reading Jhumpa Lahiri's novel, The Lowland, for so many reasons. She presents a cast of characters that I came to care about, despite the tragic deceptions that framed their relationships. She describes places, especially Calcutta, in ways that helped me feel I was there. Lahiri presents the lives of individuals who came to the United States from India, as well as the lives of those who remained in Calcutta. Lahiri captures the ways in which love within family can be so strong that even deception cannot overpower it. Readers who like finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

**Alienation.** Novel of identity explores the first and second generations of a family from India and their ties to their old and new lives. Finely written debut novel from author who won Pulitzer for 1999 collection of stories.

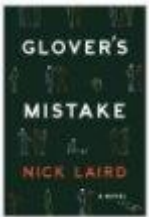
**Family.** 8 finely written short stories with well-developed characters, settings that come alive through perfect description, and the tension of family relationships to present the struggles of life.

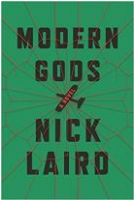
**Cooked.** If the title of Olivia Laing's novel, Crudo, refers to things raw, the prose within is cooked with all the finest ingredients of experimental literary fiction. Is the protagonist Kathy the real Kathy Acker, a punk artist who died in 1997? Probably not since the novel says it's set in 2017. Citations from

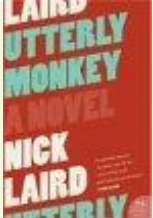
<u>The Lowland</u>	Lahiri, Jhumpa	*****	<u>10/8/13</u>		
<u>The Namesake</u>	Lahiri, Jhumpa	****	<u>Jan 04</u>		
<u>Unaccustomed Earth</u>	Lahiri, Jhumpa	****	<u>Dec 08</u>		
<u>Crudo</u>	Laing, Olivia	****	<u>11/24/18</u>		



the index that identify chosen texts show lots of Acker. Maybe Laing is exploring in fiction what difference there is between life and death. Acker comes and goes while protagonist Kathy gets married and basks in the Italian sun in sumptuous luxury. Readers looking for plot and clarity with a beginning, middle and end will find nothing of the sort on these pages. Instead, this short book takes readers on an adventure of words. Every seeming tangent brings a new nugget to lovers of finely written prose. If you're that kind of adventurous reader, you're likely to love this novel.

Glover's Mistake	Laird, Nick	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
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<u>Modern Gods</u>	Laird, Nick	****	<u>7/20/17</u>	<p><b>Sisters.</b> After reading Nick Laird's novel titled, <u>Modern Gods</u>, I am impressed by his fine writing and with how much he achieved in a little more than 300 pages. Laird interweaves the similarities and differences between different pairs. Sisters Liz and Alison are one of the pairs. Another is Ulster, Northern Ireland and New Ulster, New Guinea. Laird explores the nature of belief and the impact of history on the present. The rituals of community life are under Laird's microscope as are the reactions of people to their neighbors, to suffering and to grief.</p>	
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<u>Utterly Monkey</u>	Laird, Nick	**	<u>May 06</u>	<p><b>Aping.</b> Debut novel in the "lad lit" genre provides some enjoyable reading, of the adolescent variety, not particularly well written or memorable.</p>	
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Schooled

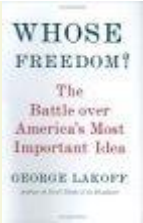
Lakhani, Anisha

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1/6/09

**Lessons.** Most readers of Anisha Lakhani’s novel, Schooled, may not identify with the New York City private school world in which the book is set. I’m not sure whether I understood how much of the novel was comic exaggeration of Lakhani’s own experience as a middle school teacher at a private school in New York and how much was based on the way parents, teachers, administrators and students really behave. Given that, what Lakhani presents in her novel is the coming-of-age story of a first-year teacher, who begins with ideals, compromises those ideals for money, and then returns to the ideals in the end. Shallow lives are presented, and the cast of characters are mostly caricatures. Protagonist Anna Taggart comes closest to a person readers can recognize, but even she behaves in ways that seemed beyond what any character in the flesh would do. I wondered what Frank McCourt would think, given his teaching methods in New York’s public schools. Lakhani dedicated Schooled to her dog, a Shih Tzu named Harold Moscovitz. That might give us a clue as to how tongue-in-cheek she meant this novel to be. If you expect this novel to be a fun read, you’re likely to be pleased with the situations Anna gets herself into, and with her relationships with parents, teachers and students. If you’re looking for deep insight into the human condition, you won’t find yourself thinking such thoughts when you finish this novel.



Whose Freedom?	Lakoff, George	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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Conditional Citizens: On Belonging in America

Lalami, Laila

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12/21/20

**Us.** Sometimes it takes the talent of a gifted writer to describe experiences of living that illuminate both those who have similar experience as well as those who think the world just isn't that way. In her book titled, Conditional Citizens: On Belonging in America, Laila Lalami describes her experience in the United States in the context of being a citizen and also receiving messages that she doesn't belong here. If you continue to think in terms of a melting pot, you're likely to revise that view after reading this book. Lalami holds us all to task at the reality of who we mean whenever we say, "we." What does it mean today to be "one of us?" How welcoming are we to fellow citizens who don't look or sound like "us?" What are the things we do every day to welcome others or to send them the message that they do not belong?

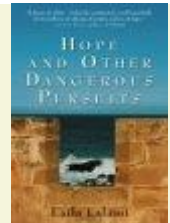


Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits

Lalami, Laila

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2006



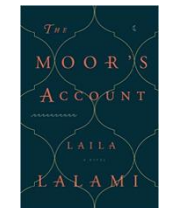
The Moor's Account

Lalami, Laila

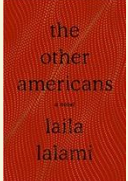
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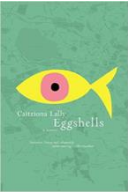
11/20/15

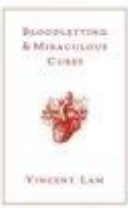
**Language.** I added Laila Lalami's novel, The Moor's Account, to my bookshelf after it received some award nominations. It languished there for months while I read other books, When I finally read this fine work of historical fiction, I as delighted with how many things Lalami did so well. The point of view Lalami presents of an actual 1527 expedition by conquistador Pánfilo de Narváez to the New World is that of a Moroccan slave. Her descriptive language soars lyrically, and the voice she expresses through the slave is packed with themes of morality, race, religion and exploitation. Readers who like historical fiction and literary




prose are those most likely to enjoy this creative and finely written novel.

<a href="#"><u>The Other Americans</u></a>	Lalami, Laila	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
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<a href="#"><u>Eggshells</u></a>	Lally, Caitriona	****	<a href="#"><u>9/11/17</u></a>	<p><b>Lists.</b> The debut novel by Caitriona Lally is titled, <a href="#"><u>Eggshells</u></a>. Protagonist Vivian falls somewhere on the autism spectrum, and her quirky and unexpected interactions with others provide the plot lines for the novel. In Lally's capable hands, Vivian becomes an interesting and complex character, and many readers will be moved and charmed by Vivian. The humor can become contagious, especially if there's someone like Vivian in your life. I loved the lists that Vivian made throughout the novel. Through Vivian's eyes we can see the world in new ways that are amazing, delightful and alive.</p>	
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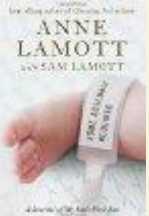
<a href="#"><u>Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures</u></a>	Lam, Vincent	***	<a href="#"><u>Dec 07</u></a>	<p><b>Doctor.</b> Debut short story collection presents four medical students in twelve connected stories. Good writing beyond the "doctors are people too" motif.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>The Headmaster's Wager</u></a>	Lam, Vincent	***	<a href="#"><u>9/17/12</u></a>	<p><b>Tragedy.</b> A debut novel by a Toronto emergency room physician, Vincent Lam, presents a view of the many tragedies of the Vietnam War from the perspective of Percival Chen, the Chinese headmaster of a Saigon school that specialized in teaching English. <a href="#"><u>The Headmaster's Wager</u></a> meanders through Chen's life and the tragic choices he makes as he gambles on the future of himself and his family. Lam tells the story at a moderate pace, alternating significant events with everyday</p>	
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activity. I found myself distracted by two shortcomings: many characters were inadequately developed, and I found some sections tedious and superfluous. Readers who like fiction that encourages immersion into a historical setting are those most likely to enjoy this novel, as well as those readers willing to give a debut novelist a glance.

<a href="#"><u>The Outsider: Pope Francis and His Battle to Reform the Church</u></a>	Lamb, Christopher	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<a href="#"><u>Grace (Eventually)</u></a>	Lamott, Anne	***	<a href="#"><u>July 07</u></a>	<b>Mellow.</b> Good writing about how the author has dealt with life issues brings calm and comfort to readers facing the challenges that life throws our way.	
<a href="#"><u>Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy</u></a>	Lamott, Anne	****	<a href="#"><u>8/12/17</u></a>	<b>Understanding.</b> I think that a big chunk of my reading, both fiction and non-fiction, involves a search for understanding, especially understanding myself and the broad spectrum of people who surprise me by what they think, say and do. Reading Anne Lamott's book titled, <a href="#"><u>Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy</u></a> , was like receiving a kind and unexpected gift. Much of mercy involves letting go and most readers of this book will let go of something, especially something causing pain to self or others, after reading it.	
<a href="#"><u>Imperfect Birds</u></a>	Lamott, Anne	***	<a href="#"><u>5/15/10</u></a>	<b>Trust.</b> Parents of children younger or older than adolescents can safely read Anne Lamott's novel, <a href="#"><u>Imperfect Birds</u></a> , without undue anxiety. Those readers with children smack in the throes of adolescence may be wise to defer reading this novel to another time. Lamott presents the elaborate lies	

of teens and the parents' desire to believe and the struggles of a young woman and her parents in dealing with a challenging situation. Rosie seems to be a good student until she isn't, as she experiments with drugs and alcohol to great excess. Her lies, including the ways in which she sabotages the drug tests she is forced to take, create real tension for everyone. The title of the novel comes from Rumi, "Each has to enter the nest made by the other imperfect bird." Rosie's mother, Elizabeth and her stepfather James create the best nest they can in forming a family. The novel unveils deep love and great pain, and explores the question of how trust is formed and maintained.

Some Assembly Required: A Journal of My Son's First Son	Lamott, Anne	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
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**Neighbors.** It's rare for me to remain patient while reading a novel that crosses four hundred pages. I usually feel that editing would have produced a better book. John Lanchester's sprawling novel, Capital, comes in over 500 pages, and it sat on my shelf unread for a long time. I shouldn't have waited because I enjoyed reading every page. Lanchester presents the lives of individuals living on or associated with those on Pepys Road, a street in London. There's a large cast of interesting characters, and the time period, 2007 and 2008, allows Lanchester's knowledge of the financial crisis, the art world and the treatment of suspected terrorists to filter into the novel with clarity and precision. Family relationships are presented with a sharp eye to observing genuine human interactions and presenting them to readers

Capital

Lanchester, John

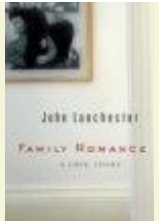
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3/25/13



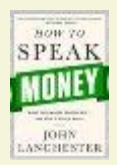


with insight and empathy. Neighbors are close and distant, share things in common, and lead very different lives, the same as on your street or mine.

Family Romance	Lanchester, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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Fragrant Harbor Lanchester, John \*\*\* Oct 02 **Refuge.** Well-written novel that captures the atmosphere, culture, power, and contradictions of Hong Kong from the 1930s to the present.



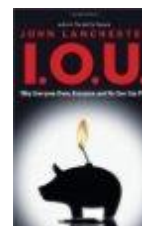
<u>How to Speak Money: What the Money People Say--And What It Really Means</u>	Lanchester, John	****	<u>11/21/14</u>	<p><b>Tools.</b> I expected to skim John Lanchester's book titled, <u>How to Speak Money: What the Money People Say--And What It Really Means</u>. I've been involved in finance for four decades and know the terminology that Lanchester explains in clear prose in this finely written book. Instead of skimming, I read the book from cover to cover, including the complete lexicon that comprises two-thirds of the text. Thanks to Lanchester's fine writing, I was delighted by his lighthearted and accurate presentation of the terms used by those in finance. I was amused by how many terms he defines as "another way of saying 'sacking people'." When I came to "onions," I laughed out loud. Lanchester wrote this book to provide tools to non-finance people to understand the arcane terms used with ease by those in finance. Non-finance readers should love this book, and insiders may also find a lot both to learn and to enjoy from this finely written book.</p>	
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I.O.U.: Why  
Everyone Owes  
Everyone and  
No One Can Pay

Lanchester, John

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010



The Wall

Lanchester, John

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5/9/19

**Other.** What makes people require an “other” to frame our own behavior? In his novel titled, The Wall, John Lanchester offers a future that some will consider dystopian and others anticipate as likely. Rising sea levels led an island nation to build a concrete barrier around its territory. Protagonist Joseph Kavanagh works as a defender with one mission: to ensure that the Others don’t breach his section of the wall. Lanchester is a terrific storyteller, and his creativity in this novel captivated me. This novel falls within the long tradition of imaginative fiction and the telling of stories that engage readers.



Goat: A Memoir

Land, Brad

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Sep 04

**Pledge.** Troubling memoir of fraternity hazing, violence, coming of age relationships and the alienation and isolation that can be part of adolescents searching for identity.



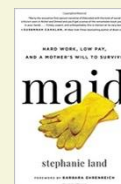
Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive


Land, Stephanie

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3/18/19

**Poverty.** Most readers don’t have a clue about what it is like to be poor in the United States today. Thanks to Stephanie Land’s finely written memoir titled, Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive, there’s no excuse for not gaining an understanding about people usually out of sight and out of mind. Life is a daily peril, one illness or accident leading toward financial catastrophe. The amount of time Land spent proving her need to social service providers took away from her time spent working hard as a maid for minimum wage. Making too much money as a maid could lead to the loss of more valuable housing or nutritional



				support payment. I feel much better informed about one aspect of poverty in contemporary American life, and I'm thinking again about the advantages of a universal basic income.	
The 10 Best of Everything	Lande, Nathaniel	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
Positively False	Landis, Floyd	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Building Great Sentences: How to Write the Kinds of Sentences You Love to Read	Landon, Brooks	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<a href="#"><u>In the Shadow of Statues: A White Southerner Confronts History</u></a>	Landrieu, Mitch	****	<a href="#"><u>5/11/18</u></a>	<b>Consciousness.</b> How many things in your life do you go by every day and not really notice? The Confederate statues in New Orleans were outside mayor Mitch Landrieu's consciousness until he was challenged to look at them from another point of view. Once he examined the statues and history more closely he came to the conclusions that the statues had to be removed from their places of prominence. In his book titled, <a href="#"><u>In the Shadow of Statues: A White Southerner Confronts History</u></a> , Landrieu begins and ends with the statues, and fills the middle with his personal story. You already have a view about these statues. Consider reading Landrieu's book and see if your view matches what he learned and experienced in NOLO. I enjoyed	

				reading this book and it has me paying a bit more attention to those parts of my life in which I would benefit from a bit more consciousness raising.	
<a href="#"><u>A Nation Wholly Free: The Elimination of the National Debt in the Age of Jackson</u></a>	Lane, Carl	****	<a href="#"><u>11/6/15</u></a>	<p><b>Once.</b> Once upon a time in America, our nation was free of debt. It lasted for two years and ten months. Carl Lane tells the story of how this happened in his book titled, <a href="#"><u>A Nation Wholly Free</u></a>. You'll be interested to learn that one consequence of the achievement of this milestone was our polarization into two oppositional political parties, divided on how to deal with surplus government funds, and what the proper role is for our central government. Sound familiar? Any reader interested in American history and economics should consider reading this book.</p>	
Her	Lane, Harriet	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<a href="#"><u>What the Stones Remember</u></a>	Lane, Patrick	**	<a href="#"><u>Mar 06</u></a>	<p><b>Recovery.</b> Chronicle of a 62 year old Canadian poet's first year in recovery after 45 years of drug and alcohol addiction. Vivid prose with beauty and pain on every page.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Dropped Names: Famous Men and Women As I Knew Them</u></a>	Langella, Frank	****	<a href="#"><u>5/25/12</u></a>	<p><b>Vignettes.</b> Frank Langella's new book, <a href="#"><u>Dropped Names: Famous Men and Women As I Knew Them</u></a>, is in a class of its own. Neither memoir nor biography, this book presents Langella's recollections of encounters he's had, brief or long, with a host of interesting people. The key in the subtitle is "as I knew them." Langella intends to tell us his take on these people, which he knows is neither definitive nor complete. The special quality of this book is that reading each chapter is like hearing a guest at table relate a great story. I found</p>	

				Langella's "take it or leave it" attitude about his experience to be refreshing, and I liked this book a lot.	
Crossing California	Langer, Adam			Shelf of Reproach 2004	
<a href="#">Ellington Boulevard: A Novel in A-Flat</a>	Langer, Adam	***	<a href="#">May 08</a>	<b>Real.</b> Set in a changing New York neighborhood, we find a likeable cast of characters living life to the fullest in relationships and in real estate.	
The Salinger Contract	Langer, Adam	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<a href="#">The Thieves of Manhattan</a>	Langer, Adam	***	<a href="#">9/22/10</a>	<b>Fakers.</b> Adam Langer's new novel, <a href="#">The Thieves of Manhattan</a> , had me laughing once I caught onto his clever devices. His topic is literary fakery, and he develops his plot with the swap of a memoir for a novel between two characters. Peppered throughout the short book are references to literary figures with signature characteristics, which Langer describes in a glossary. In other words, instead of using their proper names, Langer selects a defining characteristic of a writer and uses their name as a part of speech. Readers who enjoy clever wit and who are likely to understand his references will really enjoy this novel. Consider savoring it with a glass of faulkner, or even two fitgeralds.	

The Atomic  
Bazaar

Langewiesche,  
William

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



Distant Music

Langley, Lee

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



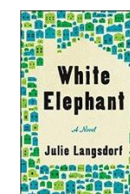
White Elephant

Langsdorf, Julie

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5/15/20

**Neighbors.** Some of us want to fit in and others want to stand out. In her debut novel titled, White Elephant, Julie Langsdorf brings us into a suburban neighborhood and the conflict between one homeowner whose new behemoth house dwarfs the neighbors, and irritates those who want things to remain the way they've been since the 1920s. The houses and the neighborhood provide the backdrop for the human relationships that are sparked by this conflict and the ways in which we are attracted and repelled. We don't get to choose our neighbors, and in Langsdorf's mix the results of an unintentional grouping provide an entertaining novel.



Dawn of the New  
Everything:  
Encounters with  
Reality and  
Virtual Reality

Lanier, Jaron

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



Leap Days

Lanpher,  
Katherine


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Feb 07

**Surprising.** A collection of essays combine to become a memoir of life in the Midwest, a move to Manhattan, marriage, divorce and childlessness, with every page full of wit, honesty and humility.






Sightseeing	Lapcharoensap, Rattawut	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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The Tulip and the Pope	Larsen, Deborah	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005
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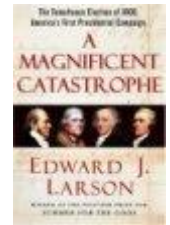
<u>Stranger, Father, Beloved</u>	Larsen, Taylor	***	<u>9/2/16</u>	<p><b>Detached.</b> After I finished reading Taylor Larsen's debut novel titled, <u>Stranger, Father, Beloved</u>, I felt like I needed some sort of cleansing. I had spent hours with a toxic set of characters, in strained relationships and I needed to wash them away from my life. Larsen's prose is finely crafted, and her immersion into a family experiencing alienation and grappling with mental illness made for some intense reading. I didn't find that the intensity led to depth. The characters seemed so consistent from the beginning of the novel to the end that I didn't experience their development or complexity. The whole cast of characters would benefit from therapy, either as individuals or in groups. While the novel captures elements of the alienation experienced by many individuals in contemporary society, I longed for some direction in the plot other than the course set from the beginning. Readers who enjoy literary fiction and are always looking for promising new authors are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	
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A Magnificent  
Catastrophe:  
The Tumultuous  
Election of  
1800, America's  
First  
Presidential  
Campaign

Larson, Edward  
J.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



[Dead Wake: The  
Last Crossing of  
the Lusitania](#)

Larson, Erik

\*\*\*\*

[5/21/15](#)

**Momentum.** Readers who hated history in school will come to love the way history can be presented after reading Erik Larson's fine book titled, [Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania](#). Most of us know that the Lusitania was sunk by a German u-boat during the early months of World War I. Larson sets the stage for that event by putting it in context, and presenting an array of characters including the captains of both vessels, passengers, President Woodrow Wilson, and others. It's the detail of the context that kept me turning pages in this finely written book. Larson's research and his lively style of presenting it gave me hours of reading pleasure. Any reader interested in this period will find a lot to enjoy and learn from this book.



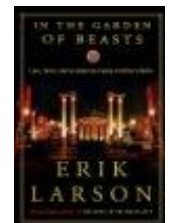
[In the Garden of  
Beasts: Love,  
Terror, and an  
American  
Family in  
Hitler's Berlin](#)

Larson, Erik

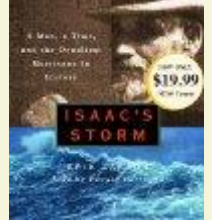


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[5/29/11](#)

**Beacon.** Among the least desirable jobs in the world in 1933 was that of American ambassador to Germany as Hitler came to power. Erik Larson tells the story of the man who took that job in his new book, [In the Garden of Beasts](#). University of Chicago history professor William Dodd accepted Franklin Roosevelt's offer of the ambassadorship in the hope that he would be able to complete the book he was writing about the American South. Not a wealthy man, his frugality grated on the members of the foreign service elite club. Dodd's independence and outspokenness made him shine as a beacon of American values in the midst of the evil growing in Germany. Dodd's daughter, Martha,



features prominently in this book, and her vivacity enlivens the book immensely. Fans of history, Larson, and those readers who like history to come alive will all enjoy this finely written, animated and gripping story.

Isaac's Storm	Larson, Erik	***		Hurricane destroys Galveston at the turn of the century. Not as well written as Sebastian Junger's <i>The Perfect Storm</i> .	
<a href="#"><u>The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America</u></a>	Larson, Erik	***	<a href="#"><u>Dec 03</u></a>	<b>Monumental.</b> Brings alive the creation of the World's Columbian Exposition (the White City) by the architects who made it happen, and unravels how a grizzly serial killer (The Devil) preyed on vulnerable fairgoers.	
<a href="#"><u>The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz</u></a>	Larson, Erik	****	<a href="#"><u>4/16/20</u></a>	<b>Persistent.</b> Whether you know a lot or a little about Winston Churchill, you're likely to enjoy Erik Larson's book titled, <a href="#"><u>The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz</u></a> , an account of the prime minister's first year in that role beginning in May 1940, a time of great peril. Larson presents the intensity of that time with skill. We can almost feel the German bombs falling on England. Lord Beaverbrook, Professor Lindemann and many others deliver for Churchill and country. Larson captures Churchill's persistence in the face of opposition at home and from the enemy. Churchill's mastery of American relations with Roosevelt, Hopkins, and Harriman come to life thanks to Larson's lively writing. Readers who enjoy well written history for general audiences are those most likely to enjoy this book.	

<a href="#">Thunderstruck</a>	Larson, Erik	***	<a href="#">May 07</a>	<p><b>Detailed.</b> Travel to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with Larson as he intertwines with rich details the story of Guglielmo Marconi, inventor of wireless communication, alongside the exploits of Dr. H.H. Crippen, a notorious English murderer.</p>	
<a href="#">The Complete Far Side</a>	Larson, Gary	***	<a href="#">Feb 04</a>	<p><b>Whimsy.</b> It took longer to read both volumes of this cartoon collection than to read some books this month. Could be pausing to laugh too much. If you can handle the 2-volume heft, we guarantee you'll laugh on many pages.</p>	
<a href="#">Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter</a>	Larson, Kate Clifford	****	<a href="#">3/7/16</a>	<p><b>Impact.</b> Can you really read another book about tragedy in the Kennedy family? If so, be sure to read Kate Clifford Larson's book titled, <a href="#">Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter</a>. Larson describes Rosemary Kennedy's botched birth, her parents' attempts to make her better, and finally the ways in which her life influenced other family members, especially her sister, Eunice, whose work with Special Olympics has done so much for people with mental disabilities. Thanks to this book, I was able to learn what an influence Rosemary had on channeling the work of so many Kennedy family members in this area. As a parent and grandparent, I cringed at the choices made by Rosemary's parents, Joe and Rose Kennedy, with what may have been what they considered the best of intentions. Larson described another time and another era, but one with an impact on contemporary society.</p>	
<a href="#">The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest</a>	Larsson, Stieg	****	<a href="#">5/15/10</a>	<p><b>Resolution.</b> Stieg Larsson completed the third novel in the Lisbeth Salander trilogy, <a href="#">The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest</a>, by lifting the darkness from the middle novel, and pulling all the pieces together by the end of this 600 page installment. I don't know how the language flows in the original Swedish, but this English version provides fine</p>	

				<p>dialogue throughout, and a narrative flow that made pages fly by a dozen or more at a time, as I wanted to bring this story to its end. I found the resolution very satisfying, and realized at the end that with Larsson's death, I will miss Salander, and remember her as one of the most memorable characters in modern fiction.</p>	
<a href="#">The Girl Who Played With Fire</a>	Larsson, Stieg	*****	10/14/09	<p><b>Depth.</b> I am often frustrated by novels over 500 pages, coming away with the feeling that a hundred or more pages could have been edited out without much loss. That was not my experience when I read <a href="#">The Girl Who Played With Fire</a>: I wanted the story to continue. Having been introduced to Lisbeth Salander in the first book of this trilogy, <a href="#">The Girl With the Dragon Tatoo</a>, I was looking forward to her return along with Mikael Blomkvist in <a href="#">The Girl Who Played With Fire</a>. We learn more about Lisbeth in this book, and see her use her prodigious skills to carry out justice. There are plenty of questions remaining, and some of those may be addressed in the next novel. In the meantime, reading <a href="#">The Girl Who Played With Fire</a> satisfies a lot of curiosity, especially about Lisbeth's past. I read this quickly, enjoyed it thoroughly, and look forward to reading the third book in this trilogy, which was the last book Larsson completed before he died in 2004.</p>	
<a href="#">The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo</a>	Larsson, Stieg	***	3/20/09	<p><b>Persistence.</b> I always approach translations with a high degree of caution. What can be beautiful writing in one language becomes clumsy in translation. After a friend recommended <a href="#">The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo</a>, I exercised that caution and approached this sprawling almost 500-page mystery with caution. What I found inside overcame any concerns about translation problems. The stories of two central characters are presented separately and then merged, within the structure of</p>	

trying to solve a forty year old missing persons case. Mikael Blomkvist is a journalist recently convicted of libel, and is heading for jail, placing his periodical in jeopardy while he is absent. The title character, Lisbeth Salander, works as an investigator for a security firm, and uses her prolific hacker skill to find out everything about anyone. Her lightweight body and multiple piercings and tattoos disguise her skills and talents from those unwilling to look beyond appearances. Lisbeth has a photographic memory that serves her investigative role well, but she struggles with personal interactions and in relationship with others. The action accelerates when octogenarian Swedish industrialist Henrik Vanger employs Blomkvist to write a history of the company and the Vanger family, provided he also examine and investigate the forty year ago disappearance of Henrik's niece, Harriet. Blomkvist asks Lisbeth to work with him to investigate the case. Along the way, they find violence and evil, and uncover family secrets that Henrik Vanger would just as soon keep quiet. [The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo](#) is Steig Larsson's debut novel, and it will be followed by two others. To the dismay of readers and friends, Larsson died in 2004, so these books will be his first and last.

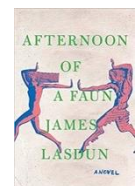
**Complicity.** Have you ever reflected on an episode from your past and felt differently about it in light of current mores? James Lasdun's short novel titled, [Afternoon of a Faun](#), offers readers a perspective about sexual relationships and the stories we repeat to ourselves over time. A journalist has been accused by an old friend that he sexually assaulted her years ago. Lasdun uses an unnamed narrator to relate the action in the present and in the 1970s when the alleged abuse

[Afternoon of a Faun](#)

Lasdun, James


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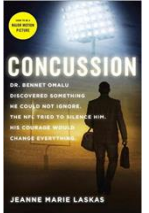
[8/27/19](#)

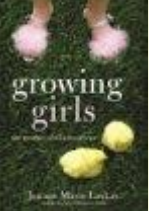




occurred. We participate as readers in determining who the victims are and of what. Lasdun understands the nature of complicity and uses that insight to increase the power of this novel.

<u>The Fall Guy</u>	Lasdun, James	****	<u>1/3/17</u>	<p><b>Guilt.</b> James Lasdun's novel titled, <u>The Fall Guy</u>, presents readers with a moral tale for modern times. Each character is culpable for immoral acts. Guilt may or may not be felt for those acts. The relationships are complicated and nuanced, bound by secrets, and formed by events that have long lasting consequences. Lasdun's writing provides psychological insight into the characters, moves the plot along effectively, and keeps readers in suspense. Readers who like literary thrillers are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	
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<u>Concussion</u>	Laskas, Jeanne Marie	*****	<u>3/15/16</u>	<p><b>Sidelined.</b> I've not seen the movie adapted from the book by Jean Marie Laskas titled, <u>Concussion</u>, but I can comment on the book which I highly recommend. Laskas presents the story of Dr. Bennet Omalu, a pathologist, who dissected the brain of a fifty-year-old former NFL Hall of Fame player, Mike Webster. Omalu found proof of mental deterioration caused by concussions, a condition widely known today as CTE, chronic traumatic encephalopathy. Omalu's findings led the NFL to marginalize and sideline him in an effort to avoid dealing with the problem. Omalu is an engaging and talented individual and thanks to Laskas, his work and his passion have been presented to the world. I was immersed in this book from beginning to end, anxious to find out what would happen next.</p>	
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<u>Growing Girls</u>	Laskas, Jeanne Marie	**	<u>August 06</u>	<p><b>Sweet.</b> Modern family living presented through the fine writing skills of one columnist-writing mom. Likely to please parents of all ages, except those for whom the dose of saccharine is too high.</p>	
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[Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys, an Extraordinary Exploration of the Unseen People Who Make This Country Work](#)

Laskas, Jeanne Marie

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[10/5/12](#)

**Glimpses.** Curious readers who are wondering what some jobs are like close-up will enjoy reading a new book from Jeanne Marie Laskas titled, [Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys, an Extraordinary Exploration of the Unseen People Who Make This Country Work](#). In addition to the jobs in the subtitle, Laskas devotes chapters to a wide range of others including: landfill workers, cheerleaders, oil rig workers, truck drivers, the air traffic controllers at La Guardia, gun shop workers and migrants at a labor camp in Maine. Each chapter stands well on its own and provides snippets into the lives of people that Laskas spent time with on the job. Laskas is a talented writer, and the glimpses she provides for readers into the people she presents in this book introduce us to lives that are not typically part of our daily experience.



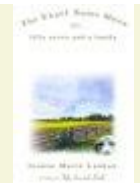
[The Exact Same Moon: Fifty Acres and a Family](#)

Laskas, Jeanne Marie

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[Feb 04](#)

**Shines.** Brilliant writing of creative non-fiction that presents insights into relationships and community life. Lifts your spirits and calls attention to the opportunities of each day.



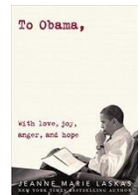
[To Obama: With Love, Joy, Anger, and Hope](#)

Laskas, Jeanne Marie


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[3/18/19](#)

**Empathy.** Have you ever wondered what people write in letters to the President of the United States? Are you curious about how those letters are handled, and what responses are made? If so, you're the reader most likely to enjoy Jeanne Marie Laskas' book titled, [To Obama: With Love, Joy, Anger, and Hope](#). Laskas reprints selected letters sent to President Obama during his term in office. She focuses on the process used to select ten letters to the President that were selected every day from the huge amount of incoming mail and given to him so he had one more way of keeping in touch with everyday people and their concerns. The individual voices of the letter writers tell great stories about



these people, often in just a few sentences. The responses consistently convey the message that the letter writer had been heard. This empathy lifted my spirits as I read this engaging and interesting book.

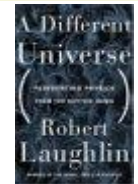
<a href="#"><u>Say Nice Things About Detroit</u></a>	Lasser, Scott	***	<a href="#"><u>10/29/12</u></a>	<b>Hometown.</b> Fans of Detroit along with readers who like novels set in vibrant urban settings are those most likely to enjoy Scott Lasser's novel, <a href="#"><u>Say Nice Things About Detroit</u></a> . Protagonist David Halpert returns to his hometown Detroit from Colorado and finds hope and a new life. Lasser presents interesting characters and a satisfactory plot. Any reader finishing this novel will come away with good feelings about Detroit and about the capacity of individuals to find hope and love in the face of any kind of trouble.	
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A Different Universe

Laughlin, Robert B.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



The Philosophy Gym	Law, Stephen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
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Running from Office: Why Young Americans are Turned Off to Politics

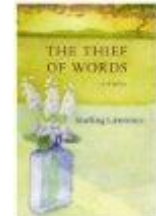
Lawless, Jennifer and Richard L. Fox


Unread

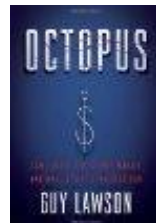
Shelf of Ennui 2015.



<a href="#"><u>The Third Chapter: Passion, Risk, and Adventure in the 25 Years After 50</u></a>	Lawrence-Lightfoot, Sara	Ennui	<a href="#"><u>10/15/09</u></a>	I noticed a seatmate on an airplane flight reading Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot's book, <a href="#"><u>The Third Chapter</u></a> , with strong interest for over an hour, so I decided to give it a try. I reached as far as page 49 of this book, and my attention kept wandering, so I put it aside for weeks, and then for good. I wasn't sure whether the author had made up her mind on how much of the book was personal anecdote and how much was academic. Neither component grabbed my interest.	
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The Thief of Words	Lawrence, Starling	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
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<a href="#"><u>Virgin and Other Stories</u></a>	Lawson, April Ayers	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
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<a href="#"><u>Octopus: Sam Israel, the Secret Market, and Wall Street's Wildest Con</u></a>	Lawson, Guy	**	<a href="#"><u>9/25/12</u></a>	<b>Delusions.</b> If, like me, you recall reading stories in the business press about the scams, fraud and antics of Sam Israel, you might enjoy reading Guy Lawson's book, <a href="#"><u>Octopus: Sam Israel, the Secret Market, and Wall Street's Wildest Con</u></a> . If this book were a novel, it would fail because readers would find the behavior of the central character to be unbelievable. Thanks to Lawson, we can read a bizarre and entertaining story about a very strange individual who follows his delusions in many directions. Readers who have an interest in financial markets, crime and bizarre behavior are those most likely to enjoy this book. I found myself thinking throughout, "this guy is nuts," and by the	
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time I finished the book, I was still shaking my head wondering why I bothered reading it.

<a href="#">Crow Lake</a>	Lawson, Mary	****	<a href="#">May 02</a>	Terrific first novel full of taut emotions, complicated relationships, life and love set in Northern Ontario.	
Flesh Wounds	Lawton, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
Then We Take Berlin	Lawton, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
Happiness: Lessons From a New Science	Layard, P. Richard G.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<a href="#">I Pity the Poor Immigrant</a>	Lazar, Zachary	***	<a href="#">10/29/14</a>	<b>Snippets.</b> Mix together equal parts of crime, violence, Jewish identity, the past and the present, and you get the components of Zachary Lazar's novel, <a href="#">I Pity the Poor Immigrant</a> . Lazar presents one snippet from the past, moves to another from the present, and alternates forward and back, to and fro, until he brings all the elements to completion at the end of the novel. I used up a lot of patience trying to get into the novel, and never felt comfortable with the erratic narrative. This is one	

of those books that made me feel better when I finished it than I felt while reading.

**Blunt.** Most of John LeCarre's novels have a nuanced and subtle quality that becomes enhanced by the dilemmas faced by his characters. In his latest novel, [A Most Wanted Man](#), most nuance is absent, and the bluntness matches that of other modern spy thrillers, but not of what readers have come to expect from this master of the genre. Given that this is a lesser LeCarre novel, it doesn't mean readers should take a pass. Like other artists considering how to write post-9/11, LeCarre dials up his anti-Americanism, and reveals the consequences of policies with which he adamantly disagrees. The man in the title is Issa, a Chechen Muslim, and the illegitimate son of a Russian Army colonel who attained wealth during the confusion following the breakup of the Soviet Union. Issa enters Germany illegally and ends up in Hamburg, where he is helped by a lawyer named Annabel Richter for an organization that aids displaced people. Issa believes that the private bankers at Brue Freres can help him, and a chunk of the novel involves exposition about Tommy Brue, the remaining banker and the secrets of his bank's past thanks to his father's decisions. Tommy and Anabel provide for some interesting dialogue and action. The closest character to some of the best created by LeCarre in the past is Gunther Bachmann, who leads a domestic spy unit. A Muslim cleric who does 95% good becomes involved in the action. Of course, the involvement is in the 5%. This is a fine novel for an airplane trip or a vacation: enough to keep the brain mildly engaged, but not much more.

[A Most Wanted Man](#)

Le Carre, John

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[2/14/09](#)





<a href="#"><u>Absolute Friends</u></a>	Le Carre, John	*	<a href="#"><u>Mar 04</u></a>	<p>Lukewarm. Even rabid fans of LeCarre will conclude latest novel not in the upper half of his repertoire. Author's animosity of U.S. and British foreign policies influences too many pages without making the novel better.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Our Kind of Traitor</u></a>	Le Carre, John	****	<a href="#"><u>11/18/10</u></a>	<p><b>Insiders.</b> <a href="#"><u>Our Kind of Traitor</u></a> is the most interesting and enjoyable novel from David Cornwell as John Le Carre that I've read in years. Having abandoned both anti-Americanism and cerebral puzzles, Le Carre returns to the core of the spy genre: interesting characters and the presence of larger games afoot than is first evident. The large cast of characters in this novel is both well-developed and fleshed out through back stories that provide a context for current behavior. The powerful insiders who control the action remain the less visible operators, but the ones who count the most. At the center of this story is money laundering, and an honorable criminal who wants to escape his current life and resettle his family under the protection of the British government. While the world he is trying to leave has its complicated relationships, the people and schemes that entangle those trying to help him are the most intricate of all. Readers who like reading fine prose within a well-constructed complicated plot will enjoy this book.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Constant Gardener</u></a>	Le Carre, John	****	<a href="#"><u>02/01</u></a>	<p>With the end of the cold war, LeCarre moves beyond spy books but continues to give us fascinating characters and plenty to think about.</p>	

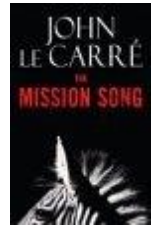
The Mission Song

Le Carre, John

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July 07

**Translator.** Best parts of this novel explore the dark sides of human nature, but relationships are poorly developed, and parts of plot felt implausible.



Agent Running in the Field

le Carré, John

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11/9/19

**Anger.** Prolific spy novelist John le Carré taps into the prevailing emotion of anger throughout contemporary life in his novel titled, Agent Running in the Field. Protagonist Nat has put in his time in the field for Britain's Secret Intelligence Service running agents, and he seethes as he sees the signals that he might become sidelined. One advantage of his recall to London is the chance to play more badminton at his club, where he's champion. He begins regular matches with Ed, a player half his age and both men enjoy the competitiveness of their contests. Over beer, Ed expresses anger about Brexit, Trump, and his job. Nat bumps into many of the elements of the toxic angry political environment in his new role where he has been placed in charge of a small group of spies. With great writing skill, le Carré moves the story along swiftly, allowing the anger to flow, and leading the interesting cast of characters toward a very satisfying resolution. Fans of le Carré and spy fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.



The Pigeon Tunnel

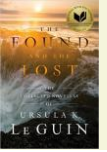
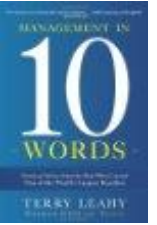
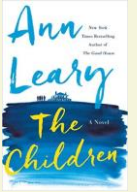
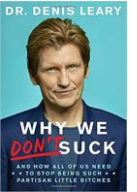
Le Carré, John

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12/19/17

**Vignettes.** The author David Cornwell uses the penname John le Carré even for the memoir titled, The Pigeon Tunnel. Every interesting vignette is told as if the reader were sitting at a meal with Cornwell and listening raptly to his war stories and other remembered episodes of a well-lived and interesting life. I found these interesting stories from a fine storyteller engaging and I could not have cared less whether or not they are true.

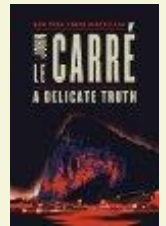


<a href="#"><u>The Found and the Lost</u></a>	Le Guin, Ursula K.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
Management in Ten Words: Practical Advice from the Man Who Created One of the World's Largest Retailers	Leahy, Terry	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<a href="#"><u>The Children</u></a>	Leary, Ann	*****	<a href="#"><u>11/21/17</u></a>	<b>Exposed.</b> It took me a year to finally open a copy of Ann Leary's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Children</u></a> . I don't know why I waited so long. Over the course of about 250 pages, Leary brings a Connecticut lake house into close focus alongside a large cast of characters connected to that house. Secrets are exposed and many characters become more interesting and complex as an initial perception of quirkiness gives way to understanding and insight. Readers who enjoy finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.	
<a href="#"><u>Why We Don't Suck: And How All of Us Need to Stop Being Such Partisan Little Bitches</u></a>	Leary, Denis	*****	<a href="#"><u>1/28/18</u></a>	<b>Acerbic.</b> Denis Leary showers his acerbic wit on everybody in his book titled, <a href="#"><u>Why We Don't Suck: And How All of Us Need to Stop Being Such Partisan Little Bitches</u></a> . I laughed when he skewered someone else and winced a few pages later when I realized his shot landed appropriately in my corner. Leary tells some great personal stories in this book, often self-deprecating ones. He calls attention to those among us who do good and who draw people together. Leary wants readers to laugh and to think. Both are great responses to this book.	

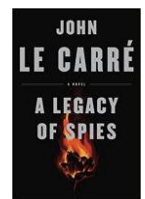
<a href="#"><u>The Indian Clerk</u></a>	Leavitt, David	***	<p><b>Disorder.</b> David Leavitt takes historical figures and facts of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in England, and weaves a complicated story of personal relationships and mathematical genius on the pages of his novel, <a href="#"><u>The Indian Clerk</u></a>. The title refers to Srinivasa Ramanujan, who in 1913 from his accounts clerk desk in Madras, India, sent a nine-page letter about prime numbers to Cambridge mathematician G.H. Hardy. Hardy and his colleague J.E. Littlewood recognize Ramanujan's talent and agree that he should come to Cambridge. Once there, he and Hardy work hard on math proofs. The orderliness of math contrasts well with the disorderliness of the relationships in this book. Genius can always be difficult in their personal relationships, and the many geniuses in <a href="#"><u>The Indian Clerk</u></a> make for lively and complicated relationships. Lovers of math will find the formulas in the book and their discussions to be intriguing. For the rest of us, there's sadness about all the personal aspects of unfulfillment in the emotional lives of all the key characters. Husbands and wives are estranged; lovers are separated; homosexuality is closeted and Ramanujan dies an early death for a reason that could have been avoided if the selfish Hardy had paid more attention. For those readers who reach the end of the book with questions about what was fact and what was fiction, Leavitt provides a final section of the book that sorts much of that out.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Two Hotel Francforts</u></a>	Leavitt, David	***	<p><b>Stress.</b> David Leavitt sets his novel, <a href="#"><u>The Two Hotel Francforts</u></a>, in Lisbon in the summer of 1940. Refugees have flocked to Lisbon in the hope of sailing away from the war. Leavitt captures the anxiety and stress of this time and place through the relationships that develop between two couples who meet by chance. As befits a time of stress, unusual and unexpected events occur. Leavitt</p>	

presents these lives and the decisions of each character in ways that never seemed to reduce tension. I finished the novel feeling unsatisfied. I never quite understood these characters. I recommend browsing a sample before you commit to reading the whole novel.

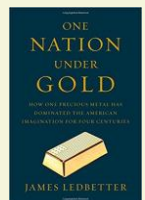
**Secrecy.** The latest novel from David Cornwell writing as John LeCarre is titled [A Delicate Truth](#). Cornwell proceeds without delicacy to yank from the headlines all the problems with the current war on terror and his views on what's amiss. The novel presents characters who behave in ways that begin with self-interest. Closely held secrets mask the reality of a pivotal event for members of the cast. Cornwell grabbed me with the story from the beginning, and kept me engaged by the clever ways in which he allowed the situation to increase in complexity as the novel progressed. By the end, the outcome seemed frustratingly clear, and was very satisfying. Read an excerpt, and if you're at all curious, chances are you'll enjoy reading this novel.



**Return.** The return of George Smiley after two and a half decades is reason enough to read John LeCarré's novel titled, [A Legacy of Spies](#). While it is Smiley's colleague, Peter Guillam, who takes center stage in this novel, all that these cold warriors did in the past is now under scrutiny by a new regime, and the blending of past and present in this novel will appeal to most leCarré fans. There is a legacy at stake and both Smiley and Guillam want that legacy protected and preserved.



**Divided.** I learned more about gold than I ever wanted to know when I read James Ledbetter's book titled, [One Nation Under Gold: How One Precious Metal Has Dominated the American Imagination for Four Centuries](#). If you've heard about the gold standard, and wonder what that is



<a href="#">A Delicate Truth</a>	LeCarre, John	*****	<a href="#">6/6/13</a>		
<a href="#">A Legacy of Spies</a>	LeCarré, John	*****	<a href="#">1/28/18</a>		
<a href="#">One Nation Under Gold: How One Precious Metal Has Dominated the American</a>	Ledbetter, James	***	<a href="#">9/6/17</a>		

<a href="#"><u>Imagination for Four Centuries</u></a>				all about, you'll learn about that and more in this book. There's been a strong interest in gold throughout history, our American experience with gold has been fascinating, and Ledbetter tells that story in this book. We are as divided about gold as we are on many other issues, and Ledbetter highlights that part of the story as well, both past and present divisions.	
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[Starving to Death on \\$200 Million: The Short, Absurd Life of The Industry Standard](#)

Ledbetter, James

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[Apr 03](#)

**Let it Die.** Unless you're in the publishing business, enjoy Ledbetter's good writing, or miss the days of the Internet bubble, there's little reason to spend any time reading this book.



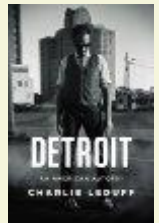
[Detroit: An American Autopsy](#)

LeDuff, Charlie

\*\*\*\*

[7/26/13](#)

**Personal.** Journalist Charlie LeDuff has written a great book about his hometown and its woes titled, [Detroit: An American Autopsy](#). The misery and sadness of the people still living in the city of Detroit provide a backdrop for this cautionary tale. Our city may be next. LeDuff candidly lays out the experience of his own family alongside a large cast of characters. The blending of the personal with the distance of a reporter make for a fine combination in a book that riveted my attention from beginning to end. Readers who care about any city and about quality of life in America will find this book heartbreaking and engaging.

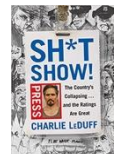


[Sh\\*t Show!: The Country's Collapsing . . . and the Ratings Are Great](#)

LeDuff, Charlie

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.





US Guys	LeDuff, Charlie	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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[On Such a Full Sea](#)

Lee, Chang-Rae

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[11/15/14](#)

**Journey.** Chang-Rae Lee's prose in his novel, [On Such a Full Sea](#), delighted me in three ways. The society he describes in the near-future America he creates in this novel provides a plausible trajectory from our current situation. Environmental decline, stratified social classes isolated by economics, and brutal self-interest prevail over any sense of community life. Second, the journey of protagonist Fan provides the plot and structure of the novel in ways that ranged from the mythical to the typical behavior that we recognize in each other. Finally, Lee's lyrical prose led me to re-read some sentences with great joy and admiration at his skill. Fans of literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy this finely written book.



[The Surrendered](#)

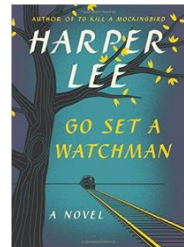

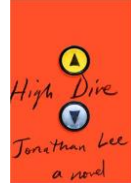
Lee, Chang-rae




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[12/11/10](#)

**Trauma.** How does a reader remain engaged in reading a novel of almost five hundred pages describing suffering and sadness? I think one has to care about the characters and find the writing to be fine enough to overpower the heartbreak of the plot. In [The Surrendered](#), Chang-rae Lee never lets up on the pain and trauma experienced by the characters, and his vivid descriptions can be difficult to read without wincing. Lee brings the reader forward and backward in time often, every opportunity used to better understand who these people are, how they have been formed by both trauma and love. As the novel progresses, I found that I began to care more about these characters, and to some degree felt their pain as they struggle with relationships that never seem to lead to



				redemption. Any reader willing to endure grim settings to experience good writing is likely to appreciate this novel. Those readers looking for happy endings and better days ahead should look elsewhere.	
<a href="#">Go Set a Watchman</a>	Lee, Harper	**	<a href="#">7/24/15</a>	<p><b>Unedited.</b> I read Harper Lee's novel, <a href="#">Go Set a Watchman</a>, on the day of its release. Given all the publicity about this book, I was curious and wanted to read for myself whether it was as finely written as <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>. It is not. I found myself thinking often as I read the narrative that the text lacked the benefits that come from the expert work of a talented editor. While there are some interesting themes of blindness, paternalism and maturity, none of them satisfied me. The prose was didactic, and the dialogue weak. While the reprised characters in this novel are more complex than in the earlier novel, they are also more ordinary and less heroic. A wise editor would have steered the author toward finer prose, improved dialogue, and a better plot. Perhaps that's exactly what happened decades ago. Sate your curiosity if you wish, but there are many finer books to read, and I can't recommend this one.</p>	
The Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food	Lee, Jennifer 8.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<a href="#">High Dive</a>	Lee, Jonathan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	

<a href="#"><u>The Undressing</u></a>	Lee, Li-Young	****	<a href="#"><u>3/18/19</u></a>	<p><b>Contemplation.</b> When was the last time you read a poem? How about a collection of poems? Every time I open a collection of poems, I vow to read more poetry. A fine collection I can recommend to any reader is Li-Young Lee's book titled, <a href="#"><u>The Undressing</u></a>. These poems are grounded in God, love and spirituality, although the words may not always convey that. This book can be a source for well-spent contemplation. These are words of love, peace, and passion in the context of the refugee experience and violence around the world. We want to understand why we are here, and these poems can lead us toward such understanding.</p>	
Free Food for Millionaires	Lee, Min Jin	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2007		
<a href="#"><u>Pachinko</u></a>	Lee, Min Jin	*****	<a href="#"><u>2/2/18</u></a>	<p><b>Aliens.</b> All over the world there is conflict between people based on "us" versus "them." A late friend often said the most important question we must answer is: "When we say 'we,' who do we mean?" Min Jin Lee writes in her novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Pachinko</u></a>, about multiple generations of Koreans living as aliens in Japan during the twentieth century. The universal themes of love and family and hard work dominate the novel, and so many elements are perfect: character development, plot and descriptive language. I was absorbed in the story and entertained from beginning to end.</p>	

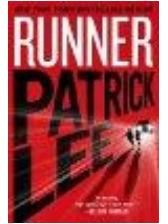
Runner

Lee, Patrick

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4/7/14

**Sprint.** Fans of action thrillers will delight in the way Patrick Lee begins his novel, Runner, with immediate pulse-quickenning action, and most readers will like the way he maintains a quick pace right to the very end of the book. Sam Dryden, a widower and retired special forces operative, finds himself running during the night when an eleven year old girl, Rachel, crashes into him in the dark. As the exposition unfolds, readers learn of Rachel's special skills, and how competing government contractors are working to develop methods for mind control. All Sam's expertise comes into play as he tries to protect Rachel. I read this novel swiftly and was entertained throughout.



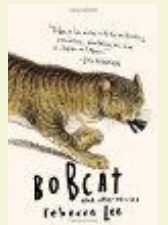
Bobcat and Other Stories

Lee, Rebecca

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12/27/13

**Dinner.** I fed myself with one story every other day from a collection of seven by Rebecca Lee titled, Bobcat and Other Stories. I found that this approach allowed me to savor each one, and not have them run together in my mind. Some of the stories are set at dinner parties, and contain plenty of wit and finely crafted dialogue. Lee structures her stories with great care, and provides just enough description and character development to make each story complete. Any reader who enjoys short stories will find one or more in this collection that will bring great reading pleasure.



Dragon Pearl

Lee, Yoon Ha

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10/27/20

**Quest.** While I am not the target demographic for a middle school science fiction novel (although some of my grandchildren are), I find that there are times when any adult can be very satisfied by reading a book in this genre. I thoroughly enjoyed Yoon Ha Lee's novel titled, Dragon Pearl, in which thirteen-year old protagonist Min goes on a quest to find out why her older brother uncharacteristically left his Space Forces battle cruiser. There's adventure on these pages, ghosts, lots of action and reinforcement of family values. Min uses fox magic



and deceit at many turns to complete her quest. Consider reading this fun story as a distraction from whatever place may be calling for your escape.

**Vocabulary.** After reading a favorable review of the second novel in the Machineries of Empire trilogy by Yoon Ha Lee, I had a choice to make: read the first, or plunge into the middle book as a standalone. Since I don't read much science fiction, I decided to start at the beginning with a novel titled, [Ninefox Gambit](#), and I'm glad I did. It took me fifty or more pages to get comfortable with the vocabulary and in trying to understand the world Lee was creating. Protagonist Kel Cheris is an unconventional math whiz warrior working for an entity called the hexarchate and is sent to a star fortress to quell a heretical rebellion that's using an unconventional calendar. Cheris teams up with a disgraced general named Shuos Jedao and carries out a complicated mission that ends with a cliffhanger to set up the second book in the series. If any of this appeals to you, leap right in. While I started reading this novel I was skeptical and ready to give up after a few dozen pages. I pushed through and now look forward to the rest of the trilogy.

**Middle.** The second novel in Yoon Ha Lee's Machineries of Empire trilogy is titled, [Raven Strategem](#). For most of the novel, hero Kel Cheris appears in the form of General Shuos Jedao and his exploits provide the plot momentum as the story continues from the first installment and sets readers up for the finale. While I read the first novel quickly, I slowed down my pace for this one, but the large cast of characters, the complexity of the plot and the special terms Lee uses didn't become clearer with a slower pace. I'm now prepared for a finale that I hope ends with a satisfying conclusion.

[Ninefox Gambit](#)

Lee, Yoon Ha

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[1/12/18](#)



[Raven Strategem](#)

Lee, Yoon Ha




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[5/11/18](#)



<a href="#">Revenant Gun</a>	Lee, Yoon Ha	****	<a href="#">1/22/19</a>	<p><b>Finale.</b> Sometimes when a trilogy comes to an end, a reader can wish and hope for another installment. When I closed the 400<sup>th</sup> or so page of Yoon Ha Lee's third installment in his Machineries of Empire series, I felt it came to a satisfying ending, and I hope to read not another word. The final novel titled, <a href="#">Revenant Gun</a>, couldn't stand alone. Readers who enjoy science fiction or fantasy are those readers most likely to be patient enough to devote the time to the three novels in this series.</p>	
Think!	LeGault, Michael R.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
Lavinia	LeGuin, Ursula K.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Coronado	Lehane, Dennis	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<a href="#">Live by Night</a>	Lehane, Dennis	***	<a href="#">12/13/12</a>	<p><b>Gangster.</b> It's the vivid storytelling that brought me pleasure while reading Dennis Lehane's <a href="#">Live by Night</a>. I wanted to know what would happen next in the fascinating life of Joe Coughlin. As the criminal son of a senior Boston police executive, there were many directions that Joe's life could take. Lehane plucks him from Boston and delivers him to Tampa where he turns around a flailing criminal enterprise</p>	

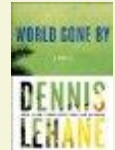


				and makes millions during Prohibition. Readers who like novels mostly for the story are those who are likely to enjoy this one.	
<u>Moonlight Mile</u>	Lehane, Dennis	***	<u>12/11/10</u>	<p><b>Struggle.</b> Dennis Lehane has again reprised protagonists Patrick Kenzie and Angie Gennaro along with character Amanda McCready and placed them in the middle of struggling times of economic challenges and raising a child. The new novel titled, <u>Moonlight Mile</u>, can stand on its own, but in the context of the prior novels seems richer. Lehane's plot and dialogue are the strengths of this novel, while supporting characters can come across as more caricature than real. In a troubled world, one good person can struggle against overpowering forces, and Lehane presents that strain with skill in this novel.</p>	
<u>Shutter Island</u>	Lehane, Dennis	***	<u>July 03</u>	<p><b>Islands of the Mind.</b> Well-crafted psychological novel that leaves readers wondering about what is appearance and what is reality. Open the shutters of your mind and enjoy.</p>	
<u>Since We Fell</u>	Lehane, Dennis	****	<u>6/9/17</u>	<p><b>Deception.</b> Appearances are deceiving throughout Dennis Lehane's novel titled, <u>Since We Fell</u>. Fans of Lehane will love the ways in which he develops interesting and complex characters, moving them through a thrilling plot full of twists, while offering deep psychological insight along the way. Rachel Childs will be a memorable protagonist for most readers. Any single impression of Rachel will be proven to be grossly incomplete. Readers who can tolerate shocking violence and who enjoy psychological thrillers are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	

<a href="#"><u>The Drop</u></a>	Lehane, Dennis	*****	<a href="#"><u>8/8/14</u></a>	<p><b>Rescue.</b> Fans of Dennis Lehane's fiction will enjoy reading <a href="#"><u>The Drop</u></a>. What began as a short story was turned into a movie screenplay. This is the version of the screenplay written as a novel. Protagonist Bob Saginowski leaves his bartending job at Cousin Marv's and finds a hurt and abandoned dog he names Rocco. As he rescues the dog, he also meets Nadia. The Chechen mafia own Cousin Marv's and it would not be wise to cross them. The dog's owner is not a paragon of societal virtue. The action is compelling, the characters interesting, and the novel wraps up pretty soon after it starts. This is perfect reading for a short airplane flight, especially one to Boston, so one is prepared for that landscape and all the possible things that can happen in that place.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Given Day</u></a>	Lehane, Dennis	***	<a href="#"><u>7/16/09</u></a>	<p><b>Loyalty.</b> Fans of historical fiction can wallow with delight through the more than 700 pages of Dennis Lehane's epic novel <a href="#"><u>The Given Day</u></a>. I lingered for months over these pages, taking a scene or two at a time, and letting the pleasure last longer. Set in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, <a href="#"><u>The Given Day</u></a> uses two families as the springboard to explore all the social issues of the time: labor unrest, racism, influenza, anarchy and war. The Caughlin family of Boston represents the power of the Irish immigrants through their police service, and the power shifts with the formation of a police union, in which son Danny becomes an activist. Luther Lawrence leaves his family in Tulsa for Boston to get out from under the influence and retribution of a black crime boss. Luther and Danny find friendship of a sort as their lives connect and as each man tries to resolve where his loyalty lies. Babe Ruth plays a big role in <a href="#"><u>The Given Day</u></a>, as does Calvin Coolidge. Lehane brings this era and its issues to life on these pages, and creates memorable</p>	

and complex characters who make choices that lead to dramatic results.

**Payback.** The third novel in Dennis Lehane's Joe Coughlin series is the shortest, and in my opinion, the best. World Gone By completes the story of the Coughlins and their lives of crime in Boston and Florida. While the novel stands well on its own in character development and plot, many readers will appreciate the story even more when read after the earlier two novels. No living American writer beats Lehane at describing criminal life with cogent insight into morality, family, loyalty, and the consequences of one's actions. This is a novel about payback, and the resolution of the drama of this series seemed perfect to me.



World Gone By

Lehane, Dennis

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5/21/15

Flying Crows

Lehrer, Jim

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Dec 04

**Birdie.** Novel spans 20<sup>th</sup> century to reveal the past of two mental asylum inmates. Rich in description and drama, but plot plods.



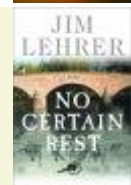
No Certain Rest

Lehrer, Jim

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Nov 02

**Sins of the Fathers.** Novel of 200+ brisk pages about a modern investigation into a death on the Antietam battlefield. Alternating images of past and present. Clean plot and decent dialogue.



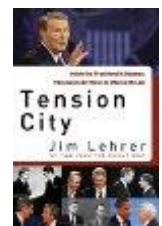
Tension City:  
Inside the  
Presidential  
Debates, from  
Kennedy-Nixon  
to Obama-  
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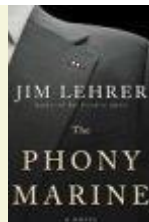
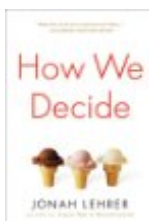

Lehrer, Jim

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11/14/11

**Perspective.** Curious readers will gain a rare perspective from reading Jim Lehrer's book, Tension City: Inside the Presidential Debates, from Kennedy-Nixon to Obama-McCain. Having moderated so many political debates, Lehrer can provide both an inside view as well as perspective about this important element of American political life. This short book is presented in the folksy manner that has made Lehrer a popular journalist. Political junkies will devour this book as a tasty diversion from the current round of debates.



The Phony Marine	Lehrer, Jim	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<a href="#"><u>How We Decide</u></a>	Lehrer, Jonah	***	<a href="#"><u>4/18/09</u></a>	<p><b>Arguments.</b> Jonah Lehrer's new book, <a href="#"><u>How We Decide</u></a>, is a readable presentation of how our brains work, especially in the process of making decisions. We make better decisions when the appropriate part of the brain drives the process: sometimes a rational process works best, and other times an emotional or intuitive process works. Sometimes, the parts of the brain argue over which wants to take charge. When we think a little about thinking, the effectiveness and efficiency of our decisions might improve. Throughout the book, Lehrer summarizes the work of others, tells lots of anecdotes, and never overwhelms a reader with tedium about the amygdale that might dissuade readers from continuing.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Imagine: How Creativity Works</u></a>	Lehrer, Jonah	****	<a href="#"><u>4/27/12</u></a>	<p><b>Magic.</b> Most readers of Jonah Lehrer's new book, <a href="#"><u>Imagine: How Creativity Works</u></a>, will learn a dozen or so new things about creativity as a result of reading this book. His lively writing will keep all but the most distracted readers engaged. The stories and anecdotes bring to life some underlying science that would be a bit boring to read in a different manner. I found his chapter on outsiders to be particularly informative. Promoting creativity, especially in the workplace, involves some magic, and Lehrer provides some useful thoughts on how to tap into the possibilities.</p>	

[This Town: Two Parties and a Funeral-Plus, Plenty of Valet Parking!-in America's Gilded Capital](#)

Leibovich, Mark

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[2/20/14](#)

**Sausage.** Any reader interested in politics in Washington will likely enjoy reading Mark Leibovich's lively book, [This Town: Two Parties and a Funeral—Plus, Plenty of Valet Parking!—in America's Gilded Capital](#). For Washington insiders, the appeal of this book will be reading about themselves and those they know from the fishbowl. Outside the beltway, this book is something like watching sausage get made: many readers will come away from the book with a very queasy feeling about our political processes. Leibovich as an insider offers readers a perspective that's unusual: something like an anthropologist when operating as a participant and observer at the same time. Any reader who likes to read about money, power and influence will enjoy this book.



[Luster](#)

Leilani, Raven

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[12/9/20](#)

**Edie.** Raven Leilani's debut novel titled, [Luster](#), features a Black protagonist named Edie, an artist who navigates through a world that has left her unmoored. I found myself rereading sentences that are exquisitely crafted and express in art the life that is Edie. Before we know it, readers are awash in the waves that Edie tries to ride as she spends her 20s trying to find her place in the world. We encounter issues about race, class and fidelity. We watch as Edie takes one step after another toward becoming herself. Fans of finely written fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.



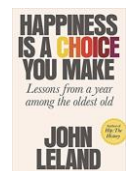
[Happiness Is a Choice You Make: Lessons from a Year Among the Oldest Old](#)

Leland, John

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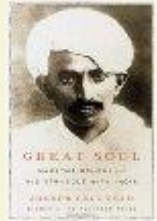
[11/6/18](#)

**Purpose.** Whether you are young, old, or old old, you can find lessons about living well in a book by John Leland titled, [Happiness Is a Choice You Make: Lessons from a Year Among the Oldest Old](#). Journalist Leland spent a year tracking the lives of six people eighty-five years old and older. Here's one spoiler: happiness has a lot to do with having a purpose in life. Leland listened to the stories of



these people and conveys them to readers in ways that are lively and interesting.

**Inspiration.** Joseph Lelyveld has written an outstanding biography titled, Great Soul: Mahatma Gandhi and His Struggle with India. This is not the Gandhi I learned about in school, the saintly skeleton preaching non-violence and who was constantly fasting. Lelyveld goes beyond hagiography and presents a more complete image of a complex individual. This book is not meant to be a complete biography, but focuses on social reform, and as such, places Gandhi as the resolute nationalist, placing India above any religion, and struggling with the ways in which social reform is achieved. The attention in this book is on Gandhi's time in South Africa and India and the ways in which this remarkable individual inspired others to change their lives.



**Revenge.** I almost put aside Pierre Lemaitre's novel, Alex, because I found too many of the images disturbing. I reverted from nighttime to daytime reading, and all was a bit better. Readers who like crime fiction with complex and twisting plots are those most likely to enjoy this novel. Two narrators present the story: Alex, whom we meet as she is kidnapped and tortured; and Commandant Camille Verhoeven, a widower who avoids kidnapping cases because of what happened to his wife. Lemaitre unfolds the plot through these voices, and rewards readers with unexpected twists. Revenge is a complicated subject, and in Lemaitre's capable hands, it is expertly explored. Once I got over the gruesome details, I was entertained by the complicated plot and well-drawn characters.



Great Soul:  
Mahatma  
Gandhi and His  
Struggle with  
India

Lelyveld, Joseph

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4/26/11



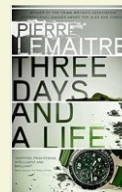
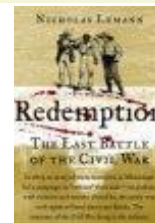

Alex

Lemaitre, Pierre

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12/12/13



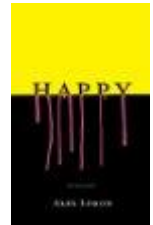
<a href="#">Inhuman Resources</a>	Lemaitre, Pierre	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Irene	Lemaitre, Pierre	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<a href="#">Three Days and a Life</a>	Lemaitre, Pierre	*****	<a href="#">12/7/17</a>	<b>Guilt.</b> Pierre Lemaitre's novel titled, <a href="#">Three Days and a Life</a> , is a character study and morality tale. The novel is set in two time periods in the life of protagonist Antoine Courtin. At age 12, Antoine accidentally kills a young neighbor, and then hides the body rather than face the consequences of his action. Lemaitre explores the ways in which guilt and remorse affect Antoine. More than a decade later, Antoine returns to his home town and carries out his self-inflicted punishment. The inner and outer storms of this novel and the surprising twists will delight most readers.	
<a href="#">Redemption: The Last Battle of the Civil War</a>	Lemann, Nicholas	***	<a href="#">Feb 07</a>	<b>Supremacy.</b> The story of Mississippi's provisional governor after the Civil War, and how the violence during Reconstruction formed the South.	
<a href="#">Transaction Man: The Rise of the Deal and the Decline of the American Dream</a>	Lemann, Nicholas	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	

Happy: A  
Memoir

Lemon, Alex

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010



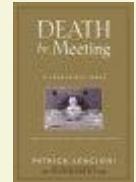
[Death By Meeting: A Leadership Fable About Solving the Most Painful Problem in Business](#)

Lencioni, Patrick

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[Aug 04](#)

**Conflict.** Expected to hate this book, but found ideas worth trying, despite lack of empirical evidence. If you can put up with the fable, there are lessons to apply to your own meetings, especially when it comes to adding structure, conflict and drama.



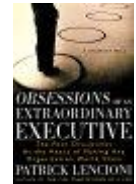
[Obsessions of an Extraordinary Executive: The Four Disciplines at the Heart of Making Any Organization World Class](#)

Lencioni, Patrick

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[03/01](#)

The best leaders pay focused attention to just a few areas of concern and impact. Lencioni proposes four areas.



[The Five Dysfunctions of a Team: A Leadership Fable](#)

Lencioni, Patrick

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[Oct 02](#)

**Who Put the Fun in Dysfunctional?** Find yourself and your team in this easy-to-read book about how executives interact. Short descriptions of each dysfunction, how to recognize it, and how to overcome it.

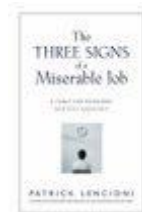



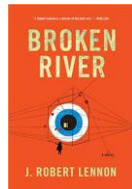

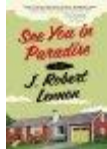
The Three Signs  
of a Miserable  
Job




Lencioni, Patrick  
M.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

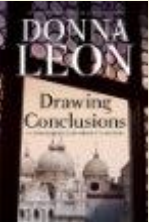



Cursed by a happy childhood : tales of growing up, then and now	Lennertz, Carl	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<a href="#">Broken River</a>	Lennon, J. Robert	*****	<a href="#">7/6/17</a>	<p><b>Intelligence.</b> J. Robert Lennon cast his prose hook into me within a few paragraphs of opening his literary thriller titled, <a href="#">Broken River</a>, and I remained attached as he played out the plot with great skill. I appreciated the many ways in which Lennon respected the intelligence of a reader throughout the novel. Much of the action is set at a modest home that was the site of a double murder. Lennon creates a consciousness that becomes an omniscient narrator and an observer of what happens in and around the house. Lennon introduces an interesting cast of troubled characters who he treats with humor, violence and great psychological insight.</p>	
Familiar	Lennon, J. Robert	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<a href="#">See You in Paradise</a>	Lennon, J. Robert	***	<a href="#">12/5/14</a>	<p><b>Odd.</b> Readers who are comfortable with the quirky and odd are those most likely to enjoy reading the fourteen stories in the new collection by J. Robert Lennon titled, <a href="#">See You in Paradise</a>. I found some of the stories funny enough to laugh out loud. Lennon can draw a thin line between pleasure and pain and drift back and forth across the line over the course of a few pages. The relationships that Lennon presents are troubled ones, and he draws us into lives that are at once strange and familiar. Paradise isn't all it's cracked up to be, and zombies can be more alive than the living.</p>	

<a href="#">The Gentleman</a>	Leo, Forrest	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<a href="#">A Question of Belief</a>	Leon, Donna	***	<a href="#">5/25/10</a>	<p><b>Inescapable.</b> The August heat in Venice is inescapable, even for Commisario Guido Brunetti who receives a call to return to the city on a murder case even before the train taking him and his family to a vacation in the cool mountains has arrived at its destination. This nineteenth mystery in this series by Donna Leon is titled, <a href="#">A Question of Belief</a>, and I find that I never tire of this character. In this installment, Brunetti calmly confronts corruption on many levels: he tries to release a colleague's aunt from the pull of a charlatan stealing her money; he investigates a judge who specializes in delaying trials; and he solves a murder. Leon is a talented writer who continues to enrich an already well-developed character. She presents dialogue and description in ways that bring readers to Venice so vividly that I almost felt the heat.</p>	
<a href="#">About Face</a>	Leon, Donna	****	<a href="#">7/2/09</a>	<p><b>Impressions.</b> For fans of Donna Leon, the 18<sup>th</sup> Commissario Guido Brunetti novel titled <a href="#">About Face</a>, provides a welcome return to Venice and to a familiar cast of characters. First-time readers can also find a well-told crime story packed with rich character development, fine dialogue and descriptive language that places readers clearly in each setting. One face to which the title refers is Franca Marinello, the beautiful second wife of Maurizio Cataldo. Her face was damaged from surgery that most conclude was done for cosmetic reasons. Brunetti met them at a dinner party at the home of his in-laws, the Conte and Contessa Falier. Brunetti's interest in Franca became lively when she revealed to him that she reads Cicero. The</p>	

				<p>Conte asks Guido to investigate Cataldo because they may do a business deal together. This unusual request provides some development in the complicated relationship between Brunetti and his father-in-law. Much of the action in the novel centers on crimes relating to the dumping of industrial waste. Throughout, <a href="#">About Face</a> is entertaining, intelligent and a joy to read.</p>	
<a href="#">Beastly Things</a>	Leon, Donna	***	<a href="#">4/11/12</a>	<p><b>Companions.</b> Fans of the Donna Leon novels featuring Commissario Guido Brunetti will enjoy this 21<sup>st</sup> installment in a reliable and consistent series set in Venice. Titled <a href="#">Beastly Things</a>, the novel opens with the homicide of a veterinarian. While Guido investigates the case, his wife, Paola, struggles with an issue of her own at the university. As expected, both Guido and Paola find ways to reach the right resolution. The scenes of Brunetti and his sidekick Vianello visiting a slaughterhouse were more vivid than some readers might appreciate, and the good character and decency of some characters provides a striking contrast to the criminals. By the time Leon shifts to pets as companions at the end of the novel, most readers will have become vegetarians.</p>	
<a href="#">Blood From a Stone</a>	Leon, Donna	**	<a href="#">Nov 05</a>	<p><b>Cold.</b> Novel, set in Venice, reprises Commissario Guido Brunetti who solves a murder with warmth and calmness, amid the coldness of criminals and politicians.</p>	
<a href="#">By Its Cover</a>	Leon, Donna	****	<a href="#">5/16/14</a>	<p><b>Book.</b> I seemed to have finished reading Donna Leon's novel, <a href="#">By Its Cover</a>, just minutes after starting it. Leon reprises Commissario Guido Brunetti and draws him into a case involving the theft of rare books. The extended cast of characters includes many familiar ones from this series, supplemented by new and interesting villains and citizens. As always, Venice itself remains as vivid</p>	


and present as a character, and food is always important. This time another interesting distinction arises: is it the physical book that is important, or the text contained therein? Brunetti's view differs from that of other characters. Fans of the series, those who love Venice, and readers who like character-based crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

<a href="#"><u>Drawing Conclusions: A Commissario Guido Brunetti Mystery</u></a>	Leon, Donna	***	<a href="#"><u>4/26/11</u></a>	<p><b>Justice.</b> I never tire of Donna Leon's novels featuring Commissario Guido Brunetti. The twentieth in the series is titled, <a href="#"><u>Drawing Conclusions</u></a>, and the focus of Brunetti's attention is violence against women. In his persistent and dogged fashion, Brunetti tries to figure things out and follow his instincts to bring answers to his many questions. Wandering around Venice, Brunetti skirts the bureaucracy, finds the answers that eluded him, and determines a form of justice that seems superior to any other. Readers who like character-driven fiction or who like to feel present in the setting are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>Earthly Remains</u></a>	Leon, Donna	****	<a href="#"><u>5/3/17</u></a>	<p><b>Consequences.</b> Donna Leon continues to develop her beloved and recurring protagonist Commissario Guido Brunetti in a novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Earthly Remains</u></a>, the twenty-sixth installment in this mystery series. A kind, but rash act sets the stage for a break from work for Guido. His wife, Paola, finds the perfect spot for his break: a villa on Sant'Erasmus, owned by one of her relatives. As Guido recuperates, he rows in the lagoon with a villa's caretaker, Davide Casati, who had once rowed competitively with Guido's father. With great plotting skill, Leon draws us into the depths of the story, revealing gradually the long term consequences of choices made over time. Readers who love this series are those most likely to be pleased with this addition. New readers can start</p>	
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here or anywhere and be delighted with interesting characters and the joy of a mystery solved.

<a href="#"><u>Falling in Love</u></a>	Leon, Donna	****	<a href="#"><u>6/26/15</u></a>	<p><b>Tosca.</b> Donna Leon completes her second dozen novels featuring Commissario Guido Brunetti by returning to Teatro La Fenice, the opera house that was featured in the debut novel of the series many years ago. Soprano Flavia Petrelli returns to sing the lead in Tosca to standing ovations by fans including Guido and his wife, Paola. In this novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Falling in Love</u></a>, Leon allows Guido to protect Flavia once again. Fans of this series are those readers most likely to enjoy reading this latest installment.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>Suffer the Little Children</u></a>	Leon, Donna	***	<a href="#"><u>Oct 07</u></a>	<p><b>Righteousness.</b> The 16<sup>th</sup> Commissario Guido Brunetti mystery highlights the behavior of moralists whose misplaced righteousness produces tragic results.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>The Girl of His Dreams</u></a>	Leon, Donna	***	<a href="#"><u>Sep 08</u></a>	<p><b>Resolute.</b> Commissario Guido Brunetti returns to solve another murder set in Venice. Along the way, he eats, drinks, thinks, and remains practical and pragmatic at every turn.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>The Golden Egg</u></a>	Leon, Donna	****	<a href="#"><u>6/25/13</u></a>	<p><b>Cruelty.</b> Fans of Donna Leon's mystery series set in Venice featuring Commissario Guido Brunetti will savor the latest, <a href="#"><u>The Golden Egg</u></a>. First-time readers can start here and meet a well-developed and endearing protagonist as well as a finely told story of human compassion and cruelty. I felt right at home at the beginning of the novel at the Brunetti's dinner table as Paola, Guido and their children engage in a word game. Words and their absence provide a woven motif for this story, which I enjoyed from beginning to end. Readers who like</p>	
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Venice, mysteries, and the complexity of human nature are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.

**Inheritance.** I opened Donna Leon's novel, [The Jewels of Paradise](#), knowing that it was a departure from her popular series of mystery novels featuring Commissario Guido Brunetti. I eagerly anticipated savoring any new area of interest for this writer whose work I have enjoyed. Set in Venice, Leon presents a female protagonist, Caterina Pellegrini, who has returned to her hometown with a doctorate in baroque opera to research the contents of two trunks containing the possessions of a cleric and composer dead for three centuries. Two cousins want to confirm their rights to inherit these contents which according to family lore contain treasure. For the first hundred pages, I tried to enjoy the exposition, but found it plodding and boring. After the halfway point, I rushed ahead to finish, never feeling satisfied with characters or plot. Readers who love Venice may find some passages delightful. Fans of the Brunetti series need to be able to set that pleasure aside and be open to a new style in this novel. For me, Leon squandered her Brunetti inheritance on this novel.



**Depth.** Longtime readers of the Commissario Guido Brunetti mystery series by Donna Leon may wonder, as I did, how Guido continues to grow and change as he matures. In many respects, this beloved protagonist is at his best in the twenty-seventh installment of the series, a novel titled, [The Temptation of Forgiveness](#). While always respectful of the strong females in his life, this time out Guido seems to give them more recognition and appreciation for their skills. The subject of the crime at the center of this novel could lead Guido in many different directions, and his maturity leads



[The Jewels of Paradise](#)

Leon, Donna

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[11/23/12](#)

[The Temptation of Forgiveness](#)

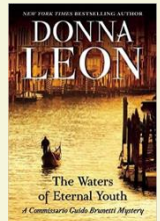
Leon, Donna

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[6/2/18](#)

him to make the best choice. Many writers lose steam as a series continues, and the pressure to write new and interesting installments must be great. Donna Leon seems to get more energized and more intense with every new book, while remaining consistent with Venice and with the character of Brunetti, both of whom readers love.

**Limitations.** Fans of Donna Leon's Venice novels featuring Commissario Guido Brunetti will find much that's familiar in the latest installment titled, The Waters of Eternal Youth. The pace is relaxed, with ample time for Brunetti to engage in conversation, eating, drinking and reading. The case at the heart of this story took place more than a decade before Brunetti is asked to look into it. A young woman's brain was damaged after she fell into a canal when a teenager. Her limitations lead Brunetti to a diligent investigation and resolution. Readers who have not read this series will likely find that one book is not enough: the entire Brunetti series brings great reading pleasure, especially to those readers who like strong character development and a clear sense of place.



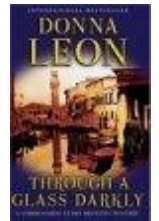
The Waters of Eternal Youth

Leon, Donna

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4/6/16

**Inferno.** 15<sup>th</sup> mystery novel featuring Venetian detective Commissario Guido Brunetti. A crime at one of the glass blowing furnaces on Murano leads Brunetti into tangled family and business relationships.



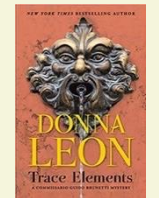
Through a Glass Darkly

Leon, Donna

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July 06

**Water.** Fans will enjoy the return of Commissario Guido Brunetti in the twenty-ninth installment of the series by Donna Leon, a novel titled, Trace Elements. Set in Venice during a hot summer, Leon takes readers and Brunetti on an exciting murder case involving the quality of the water supply for Venice. The familiar cast of characters returns in this installment, and thanks to Leon's writing skills,



Trace Elements

Leon, Donna

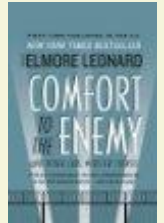
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5/26/20

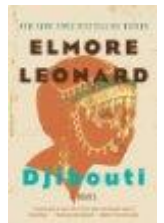
				we feel that we are in Venice and we struggle with Brunetti in deciding the right things to do in the search for justice. Fans of crime fiction, especially of this series, are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.	
<a href="#">Unto Us a Son Is Given</a>	Leon, Donna	****	<a href="#">4/19/19</a>	<p><b>Inheritance.</b> The twenty-ninth installment in the Commissario Guido Brunetti series by Donna Leon set in Venice is titled, <a href="#">Unto Us a Son Is Given</a>. For the first time in my memory, we have an extended one on one conversation between Guido and his father-in-law, and a request for help from the older man to the younger. Leon explores in this novel the things we do for love and the essence of inheritance. There's an adult adoption at the core of the story, and the ebb and flow of friendship across decades. Longtime fans may be surprised by what Guido is reading. Readers who enjoy character-based crime novels with complex and interesting characters are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p>	
<a href="#">Kochland: The Secret History of Koch Industries and Corporate Power in America</a>	Leonard, Christopher	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<a href="#">Charlie Martz and Other Stories: The Unpublished Stories</a>	Leonard, Elmore	****	<a href="#">11/6/15</a>	<p><b>Range.</b> I've been a fan of Elmore Leonard for a long time, so when I saw a posthumous collection of his short stories titled, <a href="#">Charlie Martz and Other Stories</a>, I knew I would read them. Eleven of the fifteen stories are published here for the first time. At the time some of them were written, and in the form presented here, that's not a surprise. Most of them needed work. Nonetheless, I enjoyed reading each story here, and I was impressed by the range of Leonard's writing. There's hope for any aspiring</p>	

writer on these pages: if Leonard went from some of this prose to what he wrote later in life, then there's a path one can follow that shows how persistence in writing and hard work can lead to considerable improvement.

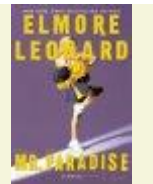
**Hot.** The character Carl Webster is one of the finest created by Elmore Leonard. This U.S. Marshall was known as "The Hot Kid," and he behaves with cool competence in all situations. Readers who want to sample Leonard's writing in a small dose will find Comfort to the Enemy to be an enjoyable introduction. While I prefer Leonard's novels to his shorter fiction, this novella and story collection provides enjoyable reading entertainment.



**Pirates.** The deft writing style of Elmore Leonard hides in the background of his latest novel, Djibouti, as this master storyteller delivers character, dialogue and plot to readers. The clever ways in which Leonard shows off his skills prove that at age 85 the author not only has maintained his craft, he continues to improve and excel. The setting for this novel involves Somali pirates, a documentary filmmaker and an old guy who still has game. Consistent with the characters, the structure of the novel includes reviewing what has been filmed and how to make a story from the images. Most readers are likely to enjoy Leonard's expert storytelling in this finely written novel.



Satisfaction. Great dialogue, memorable characters, and a wacky enough plot, set in Detroit, and delivered with picture-perfect clarity and brevity. Both quirky and realistic, surprising readers with lines to laugh at.



Comfort to the Enemy

Leonard, Elmore

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2/11/11

Djibouti

Leonard, Elmore

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10/15/10

Mr. Paradise

Leonard, Elmore

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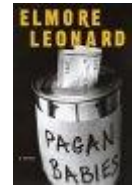
Mar 04

Pagan Babies

Leonard, Elmore

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Interesting diversion from the author of *Get Shorty*.



Raylan

Leonard, Elmore

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2/17/12

**Identity.** Elmore Leonard never seems to add a second word when one will do, whether in dialog or description. Raylan is his latest novel featuring U.S. Marshal Raylan Givens as the central character. Readers who are unfamiliar with this character from previous novels or from the TV series, *Justified*, may find the character developed in this novel to be a bit spare. For fans, this is a worthy installment featuring an intriguing character, and the writing soars. The subject matter of drug and body part sales in former coal mining country provides a lively backdrop of characters and situations for Givens to play out his role. Readers who like well written crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.



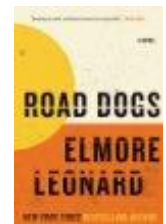
Road Dogs

Leonard, Elmore

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5/23/09

**Trust.** Elmore Leonard reprises three characters from previous novels to mix them together in a new highly entertaining novel titled Road Dogs. Jack Foley from *Out of Sight*, Cundo Rey from *LaBrava*, and Dawn Navarro, the psychic in *Riding the Rap*, interact in the new novel alongside a captivating cast of supporting characters. As always with Leonard, the dialogue provides the plot momentum and the insight into each character. The realism in this dialogue brings readers into every scene. Despite the recycled characters, Road Dogs stands fine on its own. New readers may be motivated to read the earlier novels to sate an appetite for more of this great dialogue. Any reader who watched George Clooney play bank robber Jack Foley in *Out of Sight* will hear Clooney's voice in whenever Jack speaks his totally cool lines in Road Dogs.





Leonard's choice of words is perfect throughout, and he makes the work of writing such a fine novel seem easy. Few other writers come close to Leonard's skill, so it's certainly not as easy as it seems.

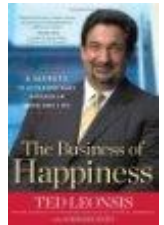
<a href="#"><u>The Hot Kid</u></a>	Leonard, Elmore	***	<a href="#"><u>July 05</u></a>	<b>Blazing.</b> In author's 40 <sup>th</sup> novel, set in 1930's Oklahoma, the title character is a young U.S. Marshall developing a reputation for getting the bad guys. Fine dialogue and character exposition.	
<a href="#"><u>Tishomingo Blues</u></a>	Leonard, Elmore	***	<a href="#"><u>Mar 02</u></a>	Clean dialogue, unusual characters, and well-constructed plot, including the Dixie Mafia and a Civil War re-enactment.	
<a href="#"><u>Up in Honey's Room</u></a>	Leonard, Elmore	***	<a href="#"><u>July 07</u></a>	<b>Reliable.</b> Crisp dialogue and great character exposition as author reprises character from earlier novel and puts him in a new setting with more opportunity for dialogue that reveals human nature.	
<a href="#"><u>When the Women Come Out to Dance</u></a>	Leonard, Elmore	***	<a href="#"><u>Mar 03</u></a>	<b>Moves.</b> Leonard presents tightly packed short stories with memorable characters, skillful dialogue, and great imagery.	
The Big Fight: My Life In and Out of the Ring	Leonard, Sugar Ray	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	

The Business of Happiness: 6 Secrets to Extraordinary Success in Life and Work

Leonsis, Ted

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010

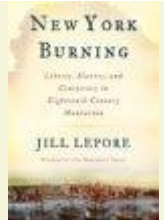


New York Burning

Lepore, Jill

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



The Mansion of Happiness: A History of Life and Death

Lepore, Jill

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



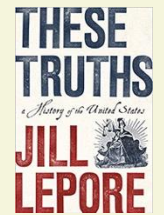
[These Truths: A History of the United States](#)

Lepore, Jill

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[8/15/19](#)

**Gallop.** Don't blink while reading Jill Lepore's book titled, [These Truths: A History of the United States](#). If you blink, you might miss a major episode in American History because Lepore writes at a galloping pace. Believe it or not, this almost thousand-page book manages to be concise while still being comprehensive. I can't think of something important that she skipped. No matter how much you think you know about American History, it can be helpful for a fresh examination through the scholarship of a contemporary historian.

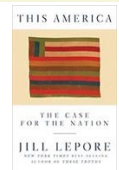




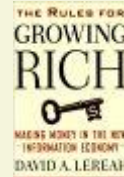

[This America: The Case for the Nation](#)

Lepore, Jill

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



<a href="#">California</a>	Lepucki, Edan	***	<a href="#">7/28/14</a>	<p><b>Ordinary.</b> I was prepared to love reading Edan Lepucki's novel, <a href="#">California</a>, after hearing Stephen Colbert's recommendation, and knowing that its dystopian subject matter is something I've enjoyed from other novels. Instead of loving it, I found it ok. Set a few decades in the future, the novel explores how protagonists Cal and Frida survive. Lepucki presents the ordinary aspects of their life as a couple, and embellishes with the ordinary tensions of living with others. This is nothing like the work of Margaret Atwood, Cormac McCarthy or Stephen King. Readers looking for an ordinary story set in a bleak future are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	
<a href="#">Woman No. 17</a>	Lepucki, Edan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<a href="#">The Rules for Growing Rich: Making Money in the New Information Economy</a>	Lereah, David A.	*		Too many rules that the average investor can't follow. If followed, Lereah's approach is still likely to be a losing strategy.	
<a href="#">10:04</a>	Lerner, Ben	****	<a href="#">10/29/14</a>	<p><b>Language.</b> Fans of literary fiction will marvel at the finely crafted prose in Ben Lerner's novel, <a href="#">10:04</a>. I enjoyed the wit and the skill with which Lerner seems to observe space and time in ways that are both vivid and flexible at the same time. The novel's narrator draws readers into his life in New York City in ways that were engaging and hilarious. If you like clever well-written literary fiction, reading this book should be an enjoyable experience for you.</p>	

<a href="#"><u>The Hatred of Poetry</u></a>	Lerner, Ben	*****	<a href="#"><u>10/27/16</u></a>	<p><b>Possibilities.</b> Two things delighted me about Ben Lerner's book titled, <a href="#"><u>The Hatred of Poetry</u></a>. First, reading this essay-length book doesn't take very long. Second, a defense of poetry through the path of hatred was great fun to read. The whole idea that poetry and the hatred of poetry being inextricable was great. Our language always falls short of expressing what we feel, and every poem, no matter how ambitious and great in exploring the possibilities, misses the mark. Thus stirred by Lerner's finely written prose about poetry, I completed his book with a smile, and went to a bookshelf to read a poem. I encourage you to do the same.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Topeka School</u></a>	Lerner, Ben	*****	<a href="#"><u>11/14/19</u></a>	<p><b>Language.</b> Ben Lerner demands readers of his novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Topeka School</u></a>, to go deep or go home. When Lerner unveils the interior lives of characters, we see the ways in which the forms of language shape ourselves and our environment. As he shifts perspective, Lerner demands our eyes follow his as we look to the past and see the trajectory toward our divisive present from multiple points of view. Words matter and Lerner shows us why. Fans of finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
The Left Hand of God	Lerner, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

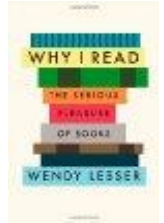
Why I Read: The Serious Pleasure of Books

Lesser, Wendy

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3/22/14

**Conversational.** I can't remember a time when I didn't love to read. I've experienced pleasure in reading an eclectic mix of books throughout my life. When I read Wendy Lesser's Why I Read: The Serious Pleasure of Books, it felt like I was having a conversation with another intelligent reader, one who is far better informed than I am. I finished reading this book with a heightened sense of awareness of the pleasure I receive from what I read and wherein that pleasure is derived. Any voracious reader is likely to find a soulmate in Wendy Lesser.



America, Compromised

Lessig, Lawrence

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6/18/19

**Corruption.** Something is rotten in the United States and Lawrence Lessig explores what that might be in a book assembled from the Berlin Family lectures he delivered. Titled, America, Compromised, this book describes the various ways in which some of America's core institutions have become corrupted. Lessig does not ascribe our current condition to bad apples, but rather to the gradual ways in which compromises have led to a decline in trust and a culture of corruption. Money is the usual cause of a diversion by institutions from their original purpose toward some compromise that leads to corruption. Lessig gives loads of examples. Readers interested in public policy are those most likely to be receptive to Lessig's concerns.



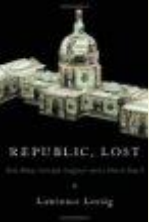

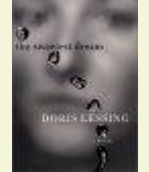
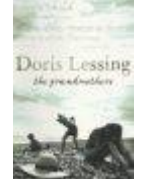
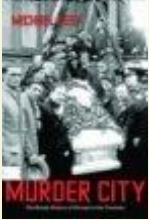
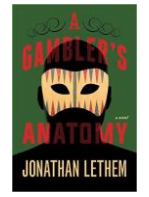
Free culture :  
how big media  
uses technology  
and the law to  
lock down  
culture and  
control  
creativity

Lessig, Lawrence

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



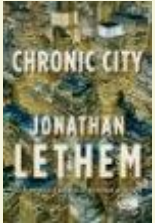
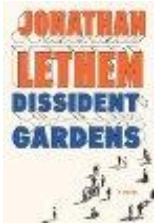
Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress--and a Plan to Stop It	Lessig, Lawrence	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<u>They Don't Represent Us: Reclaiming Our Democracy</u>	Lessig, Lawrence	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>The Sweetest Dream</u>	Lessing, Doris	***	<u>Jun 02</u>	Members of an extended family along with waifs and strays come and go from a London house where they find or give refuge. Great writing.	
The Grandmothers	Lessing, Doris May	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
Murder City	Lesy, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<u>A Gambler's Anatomy</u>	Lethem, Jonathan	****	<u>1/16/17</u>	<b>Abilities.</b> If you've never met a professional backgammon player, Jonathan Lethem is pleased to remedy that situation in his novel titled, <u>A Gambler's Anatomy</u> . Protagonist Bruno Alexander has great abilities at backgammon, perhaps psychic abilities, that have served him well for years. When his sight fails him because of the presence of what he perceives as a blot, he wins fewer games. Bruno	



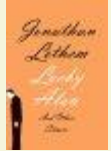
lives behind a mask, and Lethem uses this novel to describe much of the weirdness of our human condition. I was entertained by Lethem's fine writing, and found the novel odd and enjoyable.

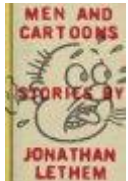
**Friendship.** Jonathan Lethem moves his skills to Manhattan in his new novel, [Chronic City](#). Amid the anxiety and loneliness of life in this tense city, protagonist Chase Insteadman, a child actor now middle aged and living on residuals develops a friendship with quirky cultural critic Perkus Tooth. In part, [Chronic City](#) is a finely written satire on life in our challenging times, and the struggle of individuals to find a way to move forward with their lives amid setbacks and challenges. The notion of a war-free edition of *The New York Times* made me laugh out loud. In other respects, [Chronic City](#) is the story of the power of love and friendship in the most unusual relationships. Chase, for example, in addition to being recognized for his child acting fame, is the fiancé of an astronaut who is stranded in space. Readers who enjoy fine writing and literary fiction will find many levels of pleasure on the pages of [Chronic City](#).


**Identity.** I took me longer to read Jonathan Lethem's novel, [Dissident Gardens](#), than any other book in the past decade. That's not because I'm a slow reader: I read two hundred other books since I first opened this novel eight months ago. What kept me constrained in rushing along with this one is that Lethem's sentences are worth close attention, and the plot creates no sense of urgency. He explores three generations of a family and uses multiple narrators to present their story. Each of the key characters in the novel is radical in some way, and each develops identity in the context of family and as individuals breaking away from family. The radicalism is something of an

<a href="#">Chronic City</a>	Lethem, Jonathan	***	<a href="#">11/7/09</a>		
<a href="#">Dissident Gardens</a>	Lethem, Jonathan	****	<a href="#">8/21/14</a>		


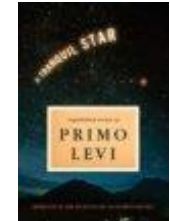
inheritance, and provides strength to the bonds across generations. We look to novels to tell us something about human nature, and Lethem does that in this quirky novel, and he does it by constructing sentences that are worth reading slowly and more than once. Readers who appreciate literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

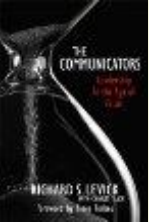
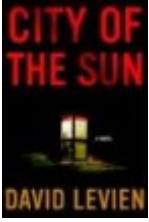


<a href="#">Lucky Alan</a>	Lethem, Jonathan	****	<a href="#">3/20/15</a>	<p><b>Laughter.</b> Jonathan Lethem crafts great sentences, so I laughed out loud when a character in one of his stories (and the title) is called “The King of Sentences.” The stories in a new collection titled, <a href="#">Lucky Alan</a>, are funny and entertaining. Lethem takes the ordinary and removes the mundane in a way that finds the humor in anxiety and quirkiness. I restricted myself to no more than one story per day, and was rewarded by many days of fine reading and satisfying laughter. Readers who like short stories and enjoy reading great sentences are those most likely to enjoy this collection.</p>	
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<a href="#">Men and Cartoons</a>	Lethem, Jonathan	***	<a href="#">July 05</a>	<p><b>Super.</b> Nine short stories display range of talented writer’s wit, irony, disillusionment, creativity and talent.</p>	
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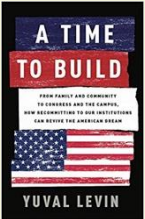
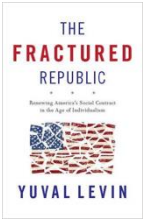


The Disappointment Artist	Lethem, Jonathan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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The Ecstasy of Influence: Nonfictions, Etc.	Lethem, Jonathan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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<a href="#"><u>The Feral Detective</u></a>	Lethem, Jonathan	****	<a href="#"><u>12/17/18</u></a>	<p><b>Lost.</b> We are all lost in one way or another and often unmoored, so give in to that sensation as you read Jonathan Lethem's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Feral Detective</u></a>. Narrator Phoebe Siegler has been lost since Trump's election, so just before the inauguration, she leaves NYC ostensibly to find Arabella, the daughter of a friend who has gone missing. In the mountains and deserts of California, she enlists Sam Heist for help. He's the detective. Their road trip pulls readers into unexpected places, where we remain lost and somewhat confused. I love Lethem's finely written prose: often his perfect sentences provided an oasis when I was lost with the characters in the desert. Fans of literary fiction who also enjoy a good noir detective story are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>You Don't Love Me Yet</u></a>	Lethem, Jonathan	***	<a href="#"><u>July 07</u></a>	<p><b>Meanderings.</b> Four key characters and a few other playful foils, meander around the Los Angeles art scene as the talented author has fun and lets readers think about art in a light way.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Little Guide to Your Well-Read Life</u></a>	Leveen, Steve	**	<a href="#"><u>Dec 05</u></a>	<p><b>Tips.</b> Potpourri of suggestions on how to enjoy books, read more, and remember better what you've read.</p>	
A Tranquil Star	Levi, Primo	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	

The Communicators : Leadership in the Age of Crisis	Levick, Richard S.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
<u>City of the Sun</u>	Levien, David	***	<u>July 08</u>	<b>Relentless.</b> Promising debut novel from a screenwriter. A year after an Indianapolis paperboy goes missing his father and a private detective get results where the police failed. Relentless pacing keeps readers' hearts racing.	
<u>Black Hole Blues and Other Songs from Outer Space</u>	Levin, Janna	****	<u>10/27/16</u>	<b>Waves.</b> If, like me, your college physics course was the equivalent of "Physics for Poets," you are likely to enjoy reading Janna Levin's book about gravitational waves titled, <u>Black Hole Blues and Other Songs from Outer Space</u> . Using a light touch in presenting the science, Levin focuses on the people, the personalities, and their stories. The result is a readable and entertaining way of picking up something new about science while gaining resonance with scientists by Levin's showing that their lives are as messy as our own.	
<u>The Queen: The Forgotten Life Behind an American Myth</u>	Levin, Josh	****	<u>2/7/20</u>	<b>Criminal.</b> I thought the trope of the Chicago welfare queen was a racist whistle used by politicians, especially Ronald Reagan, to drum up votes. While there were plenty of lies and a framework of racism at play, there actually was a woman who committed major fraud among other crimes in Illinois. In his book titled, <u>The Queen: The Forgotten Life Behind an American Myth</u> , Josh Levin tells us the true story of Linda Taylor (who used lots of names), and the truth is sad. Taylor was a con artist, a welfare cheat, and probably a murderer. Her evil deeds are presented in detail in this book, and if it were fiction, we would find it too	

improbable. The true story lands as a recital of a troubled life and a criminal who treated everyone with contempt and used others for her own ends.

<a href="#"><u>A Time to Build: From Family and Community to Congress and the Campus, How Recommitting to Our Institutions Can Revive the American Dream</u></a>	Levin, Yuval	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<a href="#"><u>The Fractured Republic: Renewing America's Social Contract in the Age of Individualism</u></a>	Levin, Yuval	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
Cut to the Chase	Levine, Stuart R.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
The World in Six Songs: How the Musical Brain Created Human Nature	Levitin, Daniel J.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	

<a href="#"><u>How Democracies Die</u></a>	Levitsky, Steven and Daniel Ziblatt	****	<a href="#"><u>3/9/18</u></a>	<p><b>Norms.</b> Two Harvard professors, Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, have studied democracies around the world. In their book titled, <a href="#"><u>How Democracies Die</u></a>, they present a clinical assessment of the ways in which countries can lose democracy slowly following a number of different events and actions. I expected to read a Chicken Little diatribe about the crisis presented to the United States by President Trump. Instead, the book presents a dispassionate assessment of where we stand in relation to what has happened elsewhere. Any reader who dismisses the importance of norms should read this book and reconsider how important unwritten standards are to the maintenance of a free and democratic society.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything</u></a>	Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner	***	<a href="#"><u>July 05</u></a>	<p><b>Quirky.</b> Economist Levitt looks for explanations to everyday situations and uses the tools of economics in some creative and unusual ways that both entertain and inform readers, while raising more than a few hackles.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Superfreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance</u></a>	Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner	***	<a href="#"><u>11/25/09</u></a>	<p><b>Fun.</b> Whether you read <a href="#"><u>Freakonomics</u></a> or not, <a href="#"><u>Superfreakonomics</u></a> provides lots of entertaining facts as the economist Steven D. Levitt and journalist Stephen J. Dubner return with another quirky set of examples from the exciting world of behavioral economics. The prostitutes are back, along with terrorists, car seats, medical hand washing and a host of other explorations. The pace is jaunty, the facts delectable, and the result a story or two to pass along in conversation. Prepare to laugh and groan. Just don't let a friend walk home drunk. Read <a href="#"><u>Superfreakonomics</u></a> and find out why.</p>	



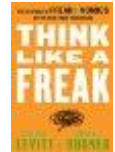
[Think Like a Freak: The Authors of Freakonomics Offer to Retrain Your Brain](#)

Levitt, Steven D.  
and Stephen J.  
Dubner

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[6/18/14](#)

**Enough.** It didn't take me long to read the latest book from Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner titled, Think Like a Freak: The Authors of Freakonomics Offer to Retrain Your Brain. I liked the earlier Freakonomics books, and expected to enjoy this one. Instead, I realized I've read enough. While the new book provides new examples and a framework to adjust one's thinking, I felt as if I'd read it all before.



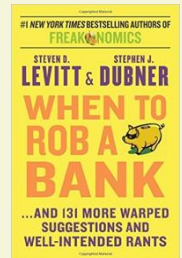
[When to Rob a Bank: ...And 131 More Warped Suggestions and Well-Intended Rants](#)

Levitt, Steven D.  
and Stephen J.  
Dubner

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[11/20/15](#)

**Blog.** While I've read some Freakonomics books by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner, I've never read their blog. Their latest book titled, [When to Rob a Bank](#), accumulates curated selections from their 8,000 blog entries over the past decade. For readers familiar with their shtick, much of what's in this collection may seem repetitive. New readers can get a light sampling of their approach from this collection of blog entries. Of course, instead of buying the book, you could just read their blog and curate for yourself.



American  
Vertigo

Levy, Bernard  
Henri

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



Beautiful  
Mutants and  
Swallowing  
Geography

Levy, Deborah

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



[Black Vodka](#)

Levy, Deborah

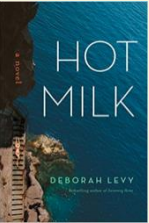
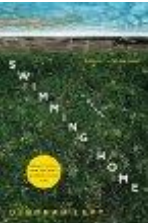
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[1/16/15](#)

**Stories.** Fans of finely written short stories will find ten gems in the collection by Deborah Levy titled, [Black Vodka](#). I restricted myself to one story per day, and was rewarded with the pleasure of savoring her perfectly crafted prose over the course



of two weeks. Each story finds a way to capture a life or a situation with great efficiency. Levy's portraits and observations brought me both insight and pleasure.

<a href="#"><u>Hot Milk</u></a>	Levy, Deborah	****	<a href="#"><u>9/23/16</u></a>	<p><b>Advantage.</b> Every page of Deborah Levy's novel, <a href="#"><u>Hot Milk</u></a> is packed with rich, luscious prose. The narrative can seem to disconnect from reality on occasion, and as a reader I sometimes lost my bearings, just like protagonist Sofia. She has spent her life caring for her mother, Rose, who has a mysterious and debilitating illness. While her mother is in Spain under the care of a new doctor, Sofia visits her father. Levy uses this separation as a way for Sofia to come into her own identity and detach from an unhealthy linkage to Rose. Levy leads Sofia to explore the issue raised by her father's young wife: why would we do anything other than to what is to our own advantage. In one way or another, most novels lead us to ask questions of ourselves about what it means to be a living, vibrant person. Fans of literary fiction who enjoy finely written prose are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Swimming Home</u></a>	Levy, Deborah	**	<a href="#"><u>11/26/13</u></a>	<p><b>Stranger.</b> I added Deborah Levy's novel, <a href="#"><u>Swimming Home</u></a>, to my reading list after it was shortlisted for the 2012 Man Booker prize. I found this dreamy and short book to be filled with very satisfying prose, but I finished the book feeling that I had just experienced a bad dream. The stranger who shakes up the lives of two vacationing couples never quite became a fully formed character for me. I recommend that any interested reader consider an excerpt before purchasing this book. I've concluded not for the first time that the tastes of those who select finalists for literary prizes don't always align well with what I like.</p>	

<a href="#"><u>The Cost of Living</u></a>	Levy, Deborah	*****	<a href="#"><u>12/9/19</u></a>	<b>Brisk.</b> The short book by Deborah Levy titled, <a href="#"><u>The Cost of Living</u></a> , allows readers to sample her fine prose while eavesdropping on a few selected episodes from her life. Levy calls this “a working autobiography,” and it is a glimpse into the writer’s observations about living in our world with interesting other people. All of a writer’s life can become source material, and in this book, Levy takes us behind the curtain to spend time with her memories and observations. I finished the book wanting to meet her mother and I smiled when I finally reached the phrase that became the title of this book. Fans of literary prose are those most likely to enjoy this book.	
<a href="#"><u>The Man Who Saw Everything</u></a>	Levy, Deborah	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
The Unloved	Levy, Deborah	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<a href="#"><u>Things I Don't Want to Know: On Writing</u></a>	Levy, Deborah	*****	<a href="#"><u>7/28/14</u></a>	<b>Response.</b> Deborah Levy’s book, <a href="#"><u>Things I Don’t Want to Know: On Writing</u></a> , is structured as a response to George Orwell’s famous 1946 essay, “Why I Write.” She heads each of four chapters with Orwell’s reasons: political purpose, historical impulse, sheer egoism and aesthetic enthusiasm. Levy’s take on these four areas is witty, feminist, and personal. Levy packs more into a single sentence than many writers can present in a chapter. Levy takes us to South Africa, Mallorca and England in a type of memoir. She led me to smile about depression, thanks to her fine prose. This is a quirky book that is unlikely to appeal to	

general readers. Literary fans are those most likely to enjoy her prose and understand her point of view.

<a href="#"><u>Freedom For the Thought That We Hate: A Biography of the First Amendment</u></a>	Lewis, Anthony	***	<a href="#"><u>May 08</u></a>	<b>Liberty.</b> A lively and interesting presentation of the two hundred year history of the first amendment, how it has been interpreted, and what it means today.	
<a href="#"><u>The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror</u></a>	Lewis, Bernard	***	<a href="#"><u>July 04</u></a>	<b>Primer.</b> Scholar distills lifetime of observation and study into a primer that answers novices' questions about Islam and provides an historical context for today's events and activities.	
<a href="#"><u>What Went Wrong: Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response</u></a>	Lewis, Bernard	**	<a href="#"><u>Feb 04</u></a>	<b>Generations.</b> Concise review of six hundred years of transformation in the role and place of the Middle East in the global community.	
God's Crucible: Islam and the Making of Europe, 570-1215	Lewis, David Levering	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<a href="#"><u>The 2020 Commission Report on the North Korean Nuclear Attacks Against the United States</u></a>	Lewis, Jeffrey	****	<a href="#"><u>10/5/18</u></a>	<b>Shivers.</b> Some novels can get creepy and scary in surprising ways. Jeffrey Lewis structured his novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The 2020 Commission Report on the North Korean Nuclear Attacks Against the United States</u></a> , as a government report. The cold and antiseptic nature of government report writing gave me shivers. Any description of the use of nuclear weapons would be scary, but it was the structure of this book that made the probability of such an event seem higher, and the fact that the author is an arms control expert made me shiver even more.	

Trusted Partners: How Companies Build Mutual Trust and Win Together

Lewis, Jordan

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09/00

Highly recommended, practical book that tells detailed stories about what line managers actually did to form alliances with other companies. Text is accompanied tools that you can use in exploring your own alliances.



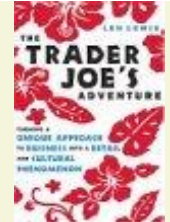
The Trader Joe's Adventure

Lewis, Len

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Nov 05

**Niche.** Repetitive and lazy writing, with some lessons: stick to an effective niche, understand one's value proposition, the importance of customer interactions, and a consistent competitive approach



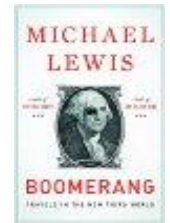
Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World

Lewis, Michael

\*\*\*\*

10/27/11

**Delusions.** In a case of one good book leading to another, Michael Lewis leaped from his recent book, *The Big Short*, to a series of *Vanity Fair* articles focused on financial delusions taking place around the world. Those articles have been bundled in a new book titled, Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World. As a financial tourist, Lewis takes readers to personal and corporate stories in Greece, Ireland, Iceland, Germany and California. In each setting, Lewis' writing is lively, likely to engage readers of any level of financial acumen. I enjoy the breezy way in which Lewis gets to the heart of a situation, and finds a way to convey what can be a complicated story into one that is easily grasped by any reader.



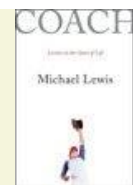
Coach: Lessons From the Game of Life

Lewis, Michael

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Oct 05

**Parenting.** Short book with big message about how coaches and others can draw the best from ordinary people, especially kids, when parents will allow hard work and strict discipline from others.



Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt

Lewis, Michael

\*\*\*\*\*

7/9/14

**Rigged.** Most readers of Michael Lewis' Flash Boys will close the book angry that the stock market is rigged in favor of high frequency traders. As he's done in his previous books, Lewis takes a



complicated financial topic and makes it understandable to any reader. He introduces readers to people who are interesting and he describes how they do what they do. It is the people and their narrative that led me to love this book. Otherwise, the substance of high frequency trading advantages could have been written in a short essay. Thanks to the personal narrative, especially of Brad Katsuyama, a dry topic takes on depth and richness.

<a href="#"><u>Home Game: An Accidental Guide to Fatherhood</u></a>	Lewis, Michael	***	<a href="#"><u>7/2/09</u></a>	<p><b>Episodes.</b> Michael Lewis cobbled together essays he did for <i>Slate</i> over the past few years, added a few more family anecdotes and published a book titled <a href="#"><u>Home Game: An Accidental Guide to Fatherhood</u></a>. Lewis' writing is lively and entertaining as he shares his personal experiences of being a father. Some of the funniest episodes are like ones that any parent might tell around a picnic or dinner table at an extended family gathering to the amusement of all. The paternal cluelessness Lewis exposes on these pages will be familiar to any wife and mother. <a href="#"><u>Home Game</u></a> is a breezy reading experience that can be read easily in bursts, separated by a chance to laugh, smirk, or dive into the pool.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Liar's Poker</u></a>	Lewis, Michael	***	<a href="#"><u>05/00</u></a>	Laughed our way through this years ago.	
<a href="#"><u>Moneyball</u></a>	Lewis, Michael	***	<a href="#"><u>Sep 03</u></a>	<p><b>Facts.</b> <i>Liar's Poker</i> author examines major league baseball and why the Oakland A's win so games while spending so little money on players. Great lessons for any business about paying attention to the right performance measures.</p>	



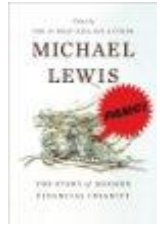
Panic: The Story of Modern Financial Insanity

Lewis, Michael

Ennui

1/17/09

There are 55 articles that Lewis selected for this book, most of which I have read closer to when they first appeared. I bored quickly, skimmed a little, and then took a pass on reading the book in its entirety. Better from Lewis is the article he wrote for the December 2008 issue of *Portfolio*, which can be found at <http://www.portfolio.com/news-markets/national-news/portfolio/2008/11/11/The-End-of-Wall-Streets-Boom>.



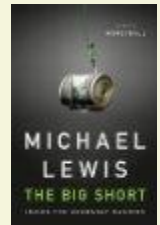
The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine

Lewis, Michael

\*\*\*\*\*

5/15/10

**Leverage.** Michael Lewis is an adept storyteller, and his latest book, The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine, presents a perspective on the subprime mortgage fiasco with both explanation and captivating drama. Lewis introduces readers to eight odd individuals, each of whom saw the subprime mortgage market problems and found ways to profit from their prediction of the market's dramatic fall. Readers looking for a comprehensive presentation of the financial crisis can find hundreds of pages elsewhere. In this book, there's an entertaining quality, perhaps schadenfreude, at the ways in which these eight characters gained from the misery of others.

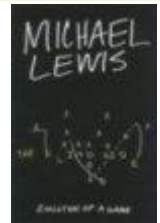


The Blind Side

Lewis, Michael

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Read, but not reviewed.



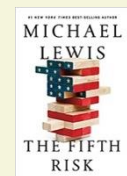
The Fifth Risk

Lewis, Michael

\*\*\*\*\*

11/17/18

**Mission.** Two readers holding different viewpoints should both read Michael Lewis' book titled, The Fifth Risk. If you believe that the government can't do anything right, read this book. If you believe that government workers are public servants engaged in carrying out a mission, read this book. Lewis gives readers a peek into three parts of the government within the departments of commerce, energy and



				<p>agriculture. He explains the real contributions to American life that these parts of the government perform and introduces us to the passion and expertise of people who work for the government and for our citizens. There's a lot to learn about the good things that the government does, and this book scratches the surface for a few little-appreciated parts of the government. Every citizen, especially those who pay taxes, should consider reading this short book to help reflect on the work being performed for all of us.</p>	
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[The New New Thing](#)

Lewis, Michael

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[5/00](#)

The story of Jim Clark or Silicon Graphics, Netscape and Healtheon fame as told by a great writer. This book is a reading pleasure and we recommend it highly.



<p><u><a href="#">The Undoing Project</a></u></p>	<p>Lewis, Michael</p>	<p>*****</p>	<p><u><a href="#">2/10/17</a></u></p>	<p><b>Genius.</b> I'll read whatever Michael Lewis offers. While reading his latest book titled, <u><a href="#">The Undoing Project</a></u>, I couldn't wait to see how Lewis put all the pieces together. He describes the lifelong friendship between Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky, two geniuses whose conversations led to insights about how the mind works and how people behave in ways that are not always rational. Their insights changed fields from medicine to economics. What Lewis achieves is taking these two individuals, displaying their individual personalities, and then proceeding to inform readers about all the ways in which these two individuals have changed how we live in the modern world, thanks to their energized and animated conversations and their inquiring skeptical minds.</p>	The image shows the front cover of the book 'The Undoing Project' by Michael Lewis. The title is in a serif font, with 'THE' in small caps and 'UNDOING PROJECT' in all caps. The author's name 'MICHAEL LEWIS' is at the top. The cover features a small illustration of a red and blue object, possibly a book or a piece of art, against a light background.
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The  
Barrowfields

Lewis, Phillip

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



The Sugar  
Frosted Nutsack

Leyner, Mark

Unread

An earlier book by Leyner led me to start reading this one, and I gave up at page 30. Shelf of Ennui 2012.



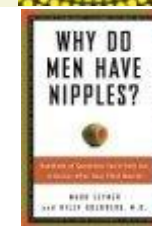
Why Do Men  
Have Nipples?

Leyner, Mark  
and Billy  
Goldberg

\* \*

Nov 05

**Witty.** Entertaining and serious Q&A on medical issues, subtitled, “Hundreds of Questions You'd Only Ask a Doctor After Your Third Martini.” Add olives and smile.



Transoceanic  
Lights

Li, S.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



A Thousand  
Years of Good  
Prayers

Li, Yiyun

\* \* \*

Jan 06

**Change.** Debut short story collection showcases talented writer’s skill in presenting character, setting and conflict with expertise. Each of the ten stories reveals struggles between a traditional past and an uncertain future.



Kinder Than  
Solitude

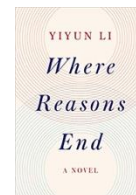

Li, Yiyun

\* \* \* \*

11/7/14

**Separation.** Readers who enjoy psychological fiction will be delighted by Yiyun Li’s finely written novel titled, Kinder Than Solitude. She presents three characters, Moran, Ruyu, and Boyang, and draws us into their lives over two decades. The three friends experienced the mysterious death of another friend, and we learn how this haunted each



				<p>of them in different ways. In some respects, their separation from each other never removed them from the poison of their youth, and that poison has formed their personalities, keeping them distant from love and contentment. The prose is finely written, the insight wise, and the story captivating.</p> <p><b>Words.</b> Where does a writer go to grieve? After Yiyun Li's 16-year-old son committed suicide, the writer turned to words. In her novel titled, <a href="#">Where Reasons End</a>, Li imagines conversations between a mother and her dead son. The novel captures grief with all its confusion, sadness and attempts to find a way to stay in touch with a lost loved one. The intensity that Li captures in her writing will resonate for any reader who has experienced deep grief. Every odd conversation is a way of reaching for a connection that can never be made again. The prose is finely written and readers open to falling into the grieving process are those most likely to appreciate this novel.</p>	
<a href="#">Where Reasons End</a>	Li, Yiyun	****	<a href="#">7/16/19</a>		
<a href="#">Here Kitty Kitty</a>	Libaire, Jardine	***	<a href="#">Jan 05</a>	<p><b>Hazy.</b> Talented debut novel uses beautiful words to describe ugly lives. Rich in tapping the grieving process while dealing with coming of age and its consequences.</p>	
<a href="#">The Card Catalog: Books, Cards, and Literary Treasures</a>	Library of Congress	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
Wal-Mart: The Face of Twenty-First Century Capitalism	Lichtenstein, Nelson	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

Swimming With  
Scapulars: True  
Confessions Of  
A Young  
Catholic

Lickona,  
Matthew

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Read, but not reviewed.



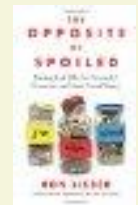
[The Opposite of  
Spoiled: Raising  
Kids Who Are  
Grounded,  
Generous and  
Smart About  
Money](#)

Lieber, Ron

\*\*\*\*\*

[9/15/15](#)

**Taboo.** Many parents struggle to communicate with children about money. Thanks to Ron Lieber's book titled, [The Opposite of Spoiled: Raising Kids Who Are Grounded, Generous, and Smart About Money](#), parents can find ideas and vocabulary to engage with children on this important topic. Many readers are familiar with Lieber from the "Your Money" column he writes for *The New York Times*. For any parent who has avoided the topic of money with children, here's a great resource to use in breaking the money taboo. I was delighted by the easy conversational style in which Lieber invites parents across the economic spectrum to approach this subject.



Shrinks: The  
Untold Story of  
Psychiatry

Lieberman,  
Jeffrey A.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.

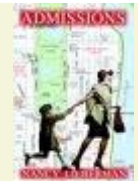


Admissions

Lieberman,  
Nancy

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

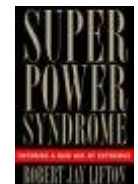


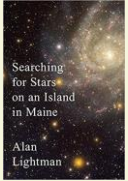
Superpower  
Syndrome:  
America's  
Apocalyptic  
Confrontation  
with the World

Lifton, Robert  
Jay

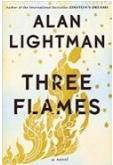
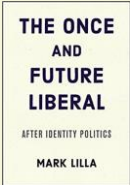
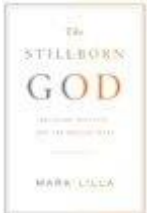
Unread


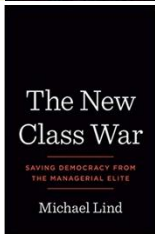
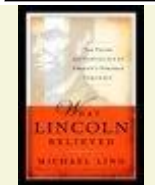
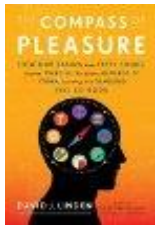
Shelf of Ennui 2004

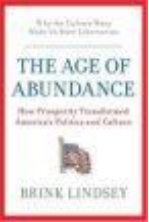

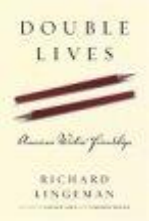
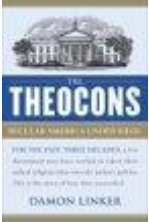
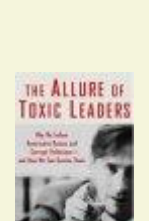


<a href="#"><u>In Praise of Wasting Time</u></a>	Lightman, Alan	***	<a href="#"><u>8/17/18</u></a>	<p><b>Ideas.</b> If you allow your mind to wander, it might take two sittings, not one, to read the short book by Alan Lightman titled, <a href="#"><u>In Praise of Wasting Time</u></a>. Based on a TED talk, this is a book of ideas, and the title discloses the key message. Out of respect for the author, I set the book aside for a few hours instead of reading it all at once. During the gap, I let my mind wander a bit, and might have wasted a bit of time. It felt good.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Mr. g: A Novel About the Creation</u></a>	Lightman, Alan	***	<a href="#"><u>5/18/12</u></a>	<p><b>Physics.</b> If your views of God and the creation of the universe are based more on a religious foundation than a scientific one, be careful before reading Alan Lightman's novel, <a href="#"><u>Mr. g: A Novel About the Creation</u></a>. Readers who enjoy playful approaches to serious subjects are those most likely to enjoy this book. Lightman's knowledge of physics provides his lens for the subject, and the image of God he presents and the experiment Mr. g conducts, will appeal to those readers who like sharp wit. If you are a believer who acknowledges that any understanding of God we think we have will always be limited, Lightman's presentation may offend you less than it will those who have a fixed and certain image of a creator.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Searching for Stars on an Island in Maine</u></a>	Lightman, Alan	****	<a href="#"><u>8/17/18</u></a>	<p><b>Inquiry.</b> Lots of individuals over the past five or six centuries have written about the reconciliation of science and religion. Physicist Alan Lightman describes his inquiry into this subject in a book titled, <a href="#"><u>Searching for Stars on an Island in Maine</u></a>. The title refers to the author's sensation while on his boat that he was part of some unity much larger than himself. Any reader who thinks about meaning and truth will find this book worthwhile.</p>	



<a href="#"><u>Three Flames</u></a>	Lightman, Alan	*****	<a href="#"><u>11/17/20</u></a>	<p><b>Hope.</b> In his novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Three Flames</u></a>, Alan Lightman develops a half-dozen characters in three generations of rural Cambodians over the past fifty years. Their lives are a struggle, and each individual is strengthened by hope. Cruelty requires a response. Children are assets that can be used to repay debts. The modern world challenges the culture of the past. Redemption is possible. We must endure what we face in the present to be here for a better future. If any of that sounds interesting to you, you're likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Once and Future Liberal: After Identity Politics</u></a>	Lilla, Mark	*****	<a href="#"><u>11/3/17</u></a>	<p><b>Citizenship.</b> Many readers will bristle at Mark Lilla's book titled, <a href="#"><u>The Once and Future Liberal: After Identity Politics</u></a>. That's a good reason to read it, whether one agrees or disagrees with the author. Lilla proposes that the liberal attention to identity politics in recent years has been a harmful diversion. Over the past four decades the vision of American individualism championed by Reagan and others has become dominant. The problem he sees with that vision is that individualism leads to a lack of interest in discerning the common good and no way of drawing our country's citizens together. Lilla calls for liberals to focus on citizenship, not identity. Whether you're a liberal or a conservative, reading about this proposed reset will be of interest if you are a citizen interested in making our republic stronger.</p>	
The Stillborn God: Religion, Politics, and the Modern West	Lilla, Mark	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2008		

Taipei	Lin, Tao	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<a href="#"><u>The New Class War: Saving Democracy from the Managerial Elite</u></a>	Lind, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<a href="#"><u>What Lincoln Believed</u></a>	Lind, Michael	**	<a href="#"><u>Sep 05</u></a>	<b>Hijacked.</b> While debunking many positions others have attributed to Lincoln in what Lind claims is error, the author stressed a point of view that others will view with skepticism.	
<a href="#"><u>The Compass of Pleasure: How Our Brains Make Fatty Foods, Orgasm, Exercise, Marijuana, Generosity, Vodka, Learning, and Gambling Feel So Good</u></a>	Linden, David J.	***	<a href="#"><u>4/27/12</u></a>	<b>Lively.</b> David Linden does for neuroscience what the <i>Freakonomics</i> authors have done for social science: he finds a way to make the subject accessible for general readers. His latest book, <a href="#"><u>The Compass of Pleasure: How Our Brains Make Fatty Foods, Orgasm, Exercise, Marijuana, Generosity, Vodka, Learning, and Gambling Feel So Good</u></a> , provides a lively presentation about how the brain works and how our pleasure circuits become activated. One aspect of the book that I found particularly interesting is his exploration of the relationship between pleasure and addiction. Most readers will feel entertained by Linden as we learn key concepts from evolution and modern neuroscience.	

The Age of Abundance	Lindsey, Bruce	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Days in the History of Silence	Lindstrom, Merethe	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
Double Lives	Lingeman, Richard R.	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
The Theocons	Linker, Damon	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
The allure of toxic leaders : why we follow destructive bosses and corrupt politicians - and how we can survive them	Lipman-Blumen, Jean	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	

<u>Good Riddance</u>	Lipman, Elinor	****	<u>8/27/19</u>	<p><b>Yearbook.</b> The high school class of 1968 dedicated its yearbook to teacher June Winter Maritch. The action in Elinor Lipman's novel titled, <u>Good Riddance</u>, begins after June's daughter, Daphne Maritch, throws away her late mother's yearbook. A dumpster-diving neighbor, Geneva, retrieves the yearbook and approaches Daphne with her plan to make a documentary based on the yearbook. Hijinks follow, as Lipman weaves a romantic story and peeks inside family dynamics. Readers looking for light entertainment are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>
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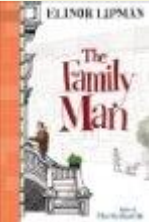

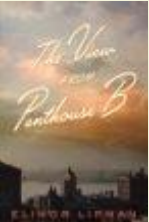


<u>My Latest Grievance</u>	Lipman, Elinor	**	<u>Apr 07</u>	<p><b>Incomplete.</b> Eighth novel by talented writer long on satire, short on plot momentum and character development. Expect playful humor and entertainment.</p>
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<u>On Turpentine Lane</u>	Lipman, Elinor	****	<u>8/4/17</u>	<p><b>Sitcom.</b> There's something to be said for reading a book when the time and setting for is optimal. To prepare yourself for Elinor Lipman's novel titled, <u>On Turpentine Lane</u>, choose a weekend, the beach or a vacation flight as the best time and setting. This romantic situation comedy could fall flat if read on the way to and from work, for example, or just before falling asleep. If you're truly in vacation mode, chances are you'll laugh as much as I did as protagonist Faith Frankel finds a house on Turpentine Lane, and then finds love. Lipman presents an interesting cast of characters, and situations that are close to laugh-out-loud funny.</p>
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<a href="#"><u>The Family Man</u></a>	Lipman, Elinor	***	<a href="#"><u>6/14/09</u></a>	<p><b>Lovable.</b> If Elinor Lipman's new novel, <a href="#"><u>The Family Man</u></a>, were a movie, you'd come out of the theater at the end with a smile on your face, and sated from an extra large tub of popcorn. Protagonist Henry Archer is a recently retired gay attorney living alone in a prime Manhattan townhouse. After Henry consoles his divorced wife Denise following the death of the man she left Henry to marry, he reconnects with his stepdaughter Thalia who has been out of his life for many years. The comedic exploits of these characters and a broad supporting cast made me care about them and what happened in their lives. That's perfect summer reading if you're looking to read a light-hearted novel. While life in Manhattan doesn't match the experience of an average American, the characters in <a href="#"><u>The Family Man</u></a> are recognizable in every community, the plot is playful, and most readers will find pleasure from reading this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Pursuit of Alice Thrift</u></a>	Lipman, Elinor	***	<a href="#"><u>Sep 03</u></a>	<p><b>Personality.</b> Romantic, not sloppy story or medical resident, Alice, and her unusual suitor, Ray. Lots of funny scenes and throwaway lines as well as some complicated mother-daughter relationship expectations.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The View from Penthouse B</u></a>	Lipman, Elinor	***	<a href="#"><u>8/27/13</u></a>	<p><b>Demographic.</b> Every now and then my eclectic reading has me stuck inside a book that is targeted at someone very different from me. Sometimes, I just stop reading. For some reason, I finished Elinor Lipman's novel, <a href="#"><u>The View from Penthouse B</u></a>, even though I retained the feeling throughout that the book was written for the audience of women over 50. While I was mildly entertained by the novel, I never felt that the characters became fully formed. While Lipman throws big challenges at the protagonists, they respond in ways that were predictable and simplistic. If you're inside the</p>	

				<p>target demographic for this novel, you may want to read a selection to see if you might like it.</p> <p><b>Missing.</b> Fans of crime fiction will find lots of successful elements in Laura Lippman's latest novel, <a href="#">After I'm Gone</a>. Felix Brewer disappears, rather than face prison. He leaves behind his wife, Bambi, and his daughters, as well as a mistress. Lippman develops the characters, especially the female ones, into fully formed complex people whom any reader would recognize. The plot moves quickly, and provides lots of avenues for exploration by Sandy Sanchez, who has taken on a cold case for investigation. Lippman explores the themes of loyalty, sacrifice and betrayal with great skill. I was thoroughly entertained by this novel. Lippman's frequent protagonist, Tess Monaghan, makes a brief appearance, and teases readers into thinking about what might be next both for Tess and for Sandy.</p>	
<a href="#">After I'm Gone</a>	Lippman, Laura	****	<a href="#">3/22/14</a>		
<a href="#">And When She Was Good</a>	Lippman, Laura	***	<a href="#">9/20/12</a>	<p><b>Survivor.</b> In a break from her Tess Monaghan series, novelist Laura Lippman creates a complex protagonist for her novel, <a href="#">And When She Was Good</a>. Heloise has bounced from one abusive relationship to another, and throughout it all, she has survived. Lippman excels at fleshing out the characters in this novel with great skill so that readers can understand their behavior, both good and bad. Deceptions abound in this novel, and Lippman keeps readers interested and engaged in every twist and turn. The subject matter of prostitution can be dicey for any writer to tackle, and Lippman succeeds in presenting this kind of life with perception and insight. Readers who enjoy character driven fiction, especially when the subject matter involves women's issues, are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	



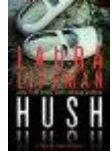
Hush Hush

Lippman, Laura

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4/24/15

**Motherhood.** Protagonist and private detective Tess Monaghan is not the working mom who has everything tuned to perfection. Her three-year-old daughter, Carla Scout, is both precious and precocious. Tess' latest case in the novel titled, Hush Hush, causes her to face a woman who killed her own child. The plot is complicated, and for me, Tess seemed off her game throughout this novel. The backdrop of Baltimore remains rich in this novel, but Tess seemed to be more energized during a quick trip to New York City than in her normal life. Maybe it was the illusion of being "off duty" as a mom, even for a short while. That illusion is, of course, broken. Fans of the series are those readers most likely to enjoy this book. I found others in the series to be more entertaining than this one.



I'd Know You Anywhere

Lippman, Laura

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12/11/11

**Intensity.** Laura Lippman departs from her Tess Monaghan detective series to write a psychological novel focused on two individuals: Eliza Benedict and Walter Bowman. In her novel, I'd Know You Anywhere, Lippman explores the lives of these two individuals with intensity, both in the current time, and twenty years earlier. Walter kidnapped Eliza when she was a teen. Now, he's on death row for his conviction in killing another teen. He contacts her in a desire to avoid his execution. Lippman unveils what happened in the past and what it means today, for both characters. Readers who like psychological novels are those most likely to enjoy this one.



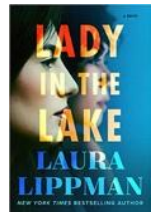
Lady in the Lake

Lippman, Laura


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8/5/19

**Reporter.** The location for Laura Lippman's latest standalone novel titled, Lady in the Lake, is Baltimore, as usual, and the time period is mostly the 1960s. Protagonist Maddie Schwartz has just left a twenty year marriage and frees herself to do something meaningful with her life. She wheedles her way into a job at a Baltimore newspaper, and



proves her worth as an investigative reporter helping solve a mystery. The novel is packed with a cast of fascinating characters, and the great story that Lippman writes even includes a surprise twist.

Life Sentences	Lippman, Laura	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
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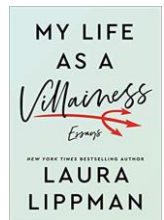
**Verve.** Just the word “villainess” in the title gives readers a taste of the verve with which Laura Lippman writes in her collection of essays titled, [My Life as a Villainess](#). I’ve read her fiction for years, especially her Tess Monaghan crime series set in Baltimore. I thoroughly enjoyed the wit and enthusiasm of her non-fiction in these essays. Sometimes, she’s relating the experience of Everywoman in recent decades. Other times, she offers a glimpse into her own life in ways that will entertain most readers. We get to see among other topics, some of her childhood, life in school, finding work as a journalist, and her experience being an older mother. Readers who enjoy a wry take on our crazy world, good writing, and some real verve, should consider reading these essays.

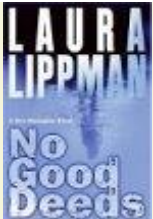
[My Life as a Villainess](#)

Lippman, Laura

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[8/25/20](#)



No Good Deeds	Lippman, Laura	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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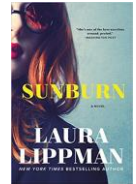
Sunburn

Lippman, Laura

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3/9/18

**Plans.** Crime fiction impresario Laura Lippman gives readers a memorable protagonist and a complex plot in her novel titled, Sunburn. My insight and understanding about Polly changed about every fifty pages. Like most of us, Polly looks out for number one, but the ways in which her planning and long-term patience accomplishes her goals were astounding. Lippman throws a wrench into Polly's plans when she meets Adam in a bar. One thing leads to another and twists and revelations abound. Fans of crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this entertaining novel and will close the book feeling pretty good that someone like Polly has not been part of our life, so far.



The Girl in the Green Raincoat

Lippman, Laura

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1/15/11

**Persistence.** Laura Lippman wrote her novella, The Girl in the Green Raincoat, in serial form for *The New York Times Magazine*. That structure demands chapters that stand well on their own, and allows a reader to drop off and pick up with a time lapse in between. Protagonist and detective Tess Monaghan has been confined to bed rest toward the end of her pregnancy, and her attention is caught by a woman walking her dog. Tess never gives up in trying to get to the bottom of what happened when the dog appeared without the woman. The characters are developed effectively, and the plot keeps readers engaged and interested throughout. Readers who prefer short fiction and those who like to read in small doses will find pleasure from this book.



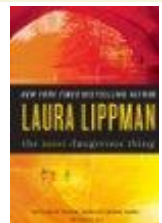
The Most Dangerous Thing

Lippman, Laura

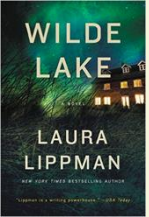
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10/25/11


**Games.** The characters in Laura Lippman's novel, The Most Dangerous Thing, are developed in ways that blend childhood and adulthood. Through story development in 1979 and the present, Lippman creates the context in which these individuals have become who they are today. The games of



childhood, and the secrets long kept, become defining for these characters, and have consequences beyond anyone's expectations. Lippman sets this novel in Baltimore, as she's done with her earlier novels, and reprises Tess Monaghan in a minor role late in the book. Readers who like character-driven fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

<a href="#">Wilde Lake</a>	Lippman, Laura	*****	<a href="#">6/9/16</a>	<p><b>Secrets.</b> Fans of Laura Lippman's novels will find familiar qualities in her book titled, <a href="#">Wilde Lake</a>. First, Lippman captures a vivid sense of place, and in this novel Columbia, Maryland is rendered with great skill. Second, the characters are always compelling in a Lippman novel, and this novel is no exception. We care about them, and come to understand them in all of their complexity. Third, we can count on Lippman to structure a plot that will maintain our interest from beginning to end. She does that in this novel with great skill. There are secrets at the core of this story, and by the time those secrets are revealed, we know the place, we care about the characters, and we appreciate what the revelation of the secrets will entail. If these are qualities that you like to see in a novel, consider reading this book.</p>	
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<a href="#">Hark</a>	Lipsyte, Sam	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
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<a href="#">The Ask</a>	Lipsyte, Sam	***	<a href="#">5/25/10</a>	<p><b>Failure.</b> There's enough misery, failure and disappointment in the world to go around, so why read a comedic novel like Sam Lipsyte's <a href="#">The Ask</a>? Maybe it's that delicate feeling of schadenfreude that brings readers looking for an escape from one's own real world to the situation of someone in even worse shape. Protagonist Milo Burke is failing at</p>	
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				<p>work, marriage, parenting and friendship. A failed painter, he works in development for a low-tier university. A college friend, Purdy, becomes a prospect for a big donation, and Milo becomes the point person. Purdy asks Milo to do some other things for him, which adds to the humor in the novel. Each character in this novel will bring both humor and sadness to a reader. All the comedy is dark, and readers who enjoy that will find much to like on these pages.</p>	
<u><a href="#">The Fun Parts</a></u>	Lipsyte, Sam	*****	<u><a href="#">4/12/13</a></u>	<p><b>Humor.</b> Intelligent readers who like their humor infused with social satire and the occasional snarky tone are those most likely to enjoy the baker's dozen stories in a new collection from Sam Lipsyte titled, <u><a href="#">The Fun Parts</a></u>. The most interesting characters in these stories have trouble with something: drugs, booze, restraint. I had read some of these stories in <u><a href="#">The New Yorker</a></u>, and on a second reading, they retained the fine sharp writing, humor, and efficiency that I loved the first time around. Treat yourself to almost two weeks of reading pleasure if you restrain yourself to one per day.</p>	
<u><a href="#">Preparation for the Next Life</a></u>	Lish, Atticus	*****	<u><a href="#">12/18/15</a></u>	<p><b>Other.</b> Some works of fiction present characters just like us, so we can be entertained by the human condition as we live it everyday. Other works of fiction present characters from the margins of society, and whose lives are very different from our own. Atticus Lish's debut novel titled, <u><a href="#">Preparation for the Next Life</a></u>, revels in the margins as he draws a portrait of characters most of us would consider as the "other." Protagonist Zou Lei, an ethnic Uigher Muslim from China, was smuggled into the United States, where she now tries to disappear. Protagonist Brad Skinner is a veteran with PTSD who keeps re-living what happened on his last tour in Iraq. They come together in Queens, the melting</p>	

				pot of the world, and Lish draws us into their isolation and the world in which they and we struggle to survive and hope to thrive.	
<a href="#"><u>The Narrow Door: A Memoir of Friendship</u></a>	Lisicky, Paul	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<a href="#"><u>A Spectacle of Corruption</u></a>	Liss, David	***	<a href="#"><u>May 04</u></a>	<b>Politics as Usual.</b> Foray into 18 <sup>th</sup> century British politics provides entertaining respite from current U.S. presidential election cycle. Well-written historical fiction with meticulous description of London scenes and period dialogue.	
The Day of Atonement	Liss, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<a href="#"><u>The Ethical Assassin</u></a>	Liss, David	***	<a href="#"><u>June 06</u></a>	<b>Animals.</b> Author known for historical fiction takes on trailer trash in modern South Florida and provides a manifesto for treating animals with respect while presenting captivating ensemble of characters.	
The Whiskey Rebels	Liss, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
<a href="#"><u>Attention. Deficit. Disorder.</u></a>	Listi, Brad	**	<a href="#"><u>May 06</u></a>	<b>Disconnected.</b> Creative, odd, unusual, debut novel may be the most unique fiction offering this year. Readers who expect order and focus should look elsewhere.	



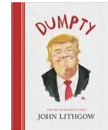
Dumpty: The Age of Trump in Verse

Lithgow, John

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1/2/20

**Partisan.** Political satire through text and illustration have a long history. Actor John Lithgow has expanded beyond his acting chops to display his writing and drawing skill in his book titled, Dumpty: The Age of Trump in Verse. The illustrations by the author are terrific, and the verse contains a partisan bite that will delight some readers and annoy others. If you like watching *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, you're likely to enjoy Lithgow's book which the author read in part on that show.



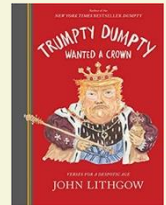
Trumpty Dumpty Wanted a Crown: Verses for a Despotic Age

Lithgow, John

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10/27/20

**Doggerel.** President Franklin Roosevelt wanted to be sure that artists were employed during the Depression because he knew that if left adrift their skills could do damage. In his second book of political satire in verse and line drawings, sheltering-at-home actor John Lithgow displays again his wit as he turns his attention to the despotic tendencies of President Trump. While reading doggerel may not suit a vast audience, I found his book titled, Trumpty Dumpty Wanted a Crown: Verses for a Despotic Age, to be a quick read and a biting indictment of some of the recent highlights (or lowlights) of the Trump administration. Trump supporters will experience raised blood pressure and some fury if they read this book. Readers who can't wait for the end of the Trump regime may laugh and cry at the sharp wit in the poems and images in this book.



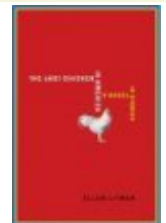
The Last Chicken in America

Litman, Ellen

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July 08

**Pittsburgh.** Debut writer calls this a novel in stories. Set in the Russian immigrant community of the Squirrel Hill neighborhood, the emotions, characters and experience are universal.



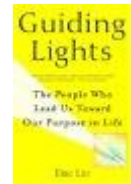
<a href="#"><u>Thanks, Obama: My Hopey, Changey White House Years</u></a>	Litt, David	****	<a href="#"><u>3/3/18</u></a>	<b>Wit.</b> I didn't expect to do more than skim a few pages of the book by former Obama speechwriter David Litt titled, <a href="#"><u>Thanks, Obama: My Hopey, Changey White House Years</u></a> . Instead, Litt's fine storytelling and wit carried me through, and before I knew it I had finished over three hundred well-written pages. There's often a "pinch me" quality behind Wit's story of coming of age in the White House. Whatever your politics, consider reading this book for the wit contained on its pages.	
<a href="#"><u>Legends</u></a>	Littell, Robert	****	<a href="#"><u>Sep 05</u></a>	<b>Discovery.</b> Fast paced spy novel explores the identities or legends of protagonist Martin Odum who tries to discover who he really is, and who he has been during his CIA career.	
<a href="#"><u>The Debriefing</u></a>	Littell, Robert	***	<a href="#"><u>Sep 04</u></a>	<b>Indistinguishable.</b> Reprinting of well-crafted cold war era espionage novel that displays few differences in behavior between the good guys and the bad guys when it comes to deceit and using power.	
The Stalin Epigram	Littell, Robert	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<a href="#"><u>Become America: Civic Sermons on Love, Responsibility, and Democracy</u></a>	Liu, Eric	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	

Guiding Lights:  
The People Who  
Lead Us Toward  
Our Purpose in  
Life

Liu, Eric

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



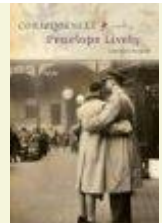
Consequences

Lively, Penelope

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Sep 07

**Accidents.** Fine prose with deep and rich multigenerational characters who explore what life is all about, and conclude that it's mostly accidental, with one thing leading to another.



Dancing Fish  
and Ammonites

Lively, Penelope

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5/9/14

**Mind.** There are many great reasons to read Penelope Lively's memoir, Dancing Fish and Ammonites. Her prose soars. Reading the recollections of others can stimulate one's own recollections. We're all aging, and the observations of a fine writer can inform readers about aspects of that process. The workings of the mind are fascinating, and when presented by Lively seem to deepen. A few sentences on objects can trigger one's own observations about prized possessions and their meaning. Any time spent with such lucid intelligence may lead to some of it rubbing on the reader. Pick your reason and then read this book before your life slips away.



Family Album

Lively, Penelope

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010



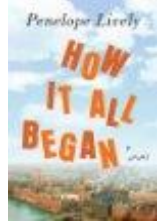
[How It All Began](#)

Lively, Penelope

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[3/27/12](#)

**Accidental.** What I enjoyed most about Penelope Lively's novel, [How It All Began](#), was the cast of charming and endearing characters. Lively frames her plot around the notion of how a single accident can lead to considerable consequences for characters that at first seem unconnected from one another. For those readers who like to read about a wide range of behavior, enjoy witty dialogue, and have any interest at all in chaos theory, this novel will deliver the goods.



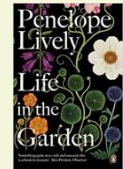
[Life in the Garden](#)

Lively, Penelope

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[11/24/18](#)

**Community.** Fans of Penelope Lively's novels and gardeners are those readers most likely to enjoy her book titled, [Life in the Garden](#). Her reflections about gardening become insights about community, connections to nature, and reflections about different gardens throughout her long life. I think we never have too much beauty in our lives, and the smallest garden can become a place where beauty is found. Lively reflects on her well-spent life using the gardens as our guide in telling that story.



Making It Up

Lively, Penelope

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



[The Purple Swamp Hen and Other Stories](#)

Lively, Penelope

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[11/21/17](#)

**Observations.** The fifth short story collection by Penelope Lively is titled, [The Purple Swamp Hen and Other Stories](#). In each of the fifteen stories, Lively calls attention to some observations about people or situations that might be overlooked, and leads readers to a revelation or understanding. She often uses humor as the path to insight and wisdom, and her prose conveys her joy in our language. Readers who enjoy literary fiction, especially short stories, are those most likely to enjoy this collection.



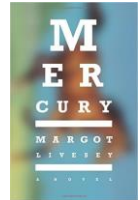
Mercury

Livesey, Margot

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4/12/17

**Obsession.** Readers who have ever been obsessed by something or someone are those most likely to enjoy reading Margot Livesey's novel titled, Mercury. Protagonist Liv has become obsessed by a horse named Mercury, and all the tension in this psychological novel flows from that obsession. For anyone who has been prevented from being with the object or person or animal of desire, the extremes of Liv's behavior will be easily understood. In addition to the element of obsession, Livesey also delves into the typical detachment that can take place from anything and anyone not related to the obsession. Finally, Livesey adds a bundle of secrets as a necessary component to round out the ways in which living an obsessed life places an individual in compromising situations.



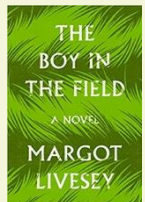
The Boy in the Field

Livesey, Margot

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10/19/20

**Interior.** Fans of finely written prose are those most likely to enjoy Margot Livesey's novel titled, The Boy in the Field. Each character's depth and interior life becomes revealed over the course of a well-structured plot. Three siblings are coming of age and observing their parents and others in new ways. Even the dog's interior life plays a part as the story progresses. The siblings are finding their places in the world and in relationships. Livesey draws us into these lives and we find ourselves caring about them deeply.

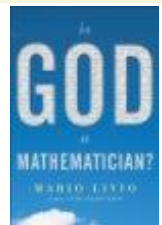


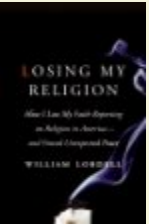
Is God a Mathematician?


Livio, Mario


Unread


Shelf of Ennui 2009



Losing My Religion: How I Lost My Faith Reporting on Religion in America-and Found Unexpected Peace	Lobdell, William	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
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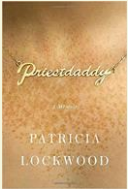
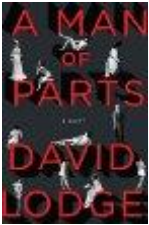
<u>Bluebird, Bluebird</u>	Locke, Attica	*****	<u>3/20/18</u>	<p><b>Restoration.</b> Almost every character in Attica Locke's finely written novel titled, <u>Bluebird, Bluebird</u>, is involved in some form of restoration. Protagonist and black Texas Ranger Darren Matthews finds himself under suspicion for the murder of a white drug dealer and he longs to restore his reputation. A black lawyer from Chicago drives to East Texas to restore his father's guitar by putting it in the hands of a former band member, but he is then killed. Geneva Sweet wants restorative justice for the unsolved murder of her husband, and a wealthy white landowner wants Geneva's property to be restored to the longtime holdings of his family. Every character is finely drawn and complex, and Locke's prose is lyrical, while never deviating from telling a story that will engage every reader.</p>	
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<u>Heaven, My Home</u>	Locke, Attica	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
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<u>Pleasantville</u>	Locke, Attica	****	<u>8/25/15</u>	<p><b>Manipulation.</b> I did not read Attica Locke's 2009 debut novel titled, <i>Black Water Rising</i>, but now that I have read her second novel featuring protagonist Jay Porter, I may go back and read the first novel. Locke's novel, <u>Pleasantville</u>, describes a community in north Houston where blacks are</p>	
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striving to succeed. Locke presents a large cast of characters and families, drawing readers into schemes of manipulation and self-dealing. Along the way, readers will enjoy finely written prose, great dialogue and an engaging plot. Readers who enjoy a well-told story with wise insight into local politics are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.

<a href="#"><u>Priestdaddy</u></a>	Lockwood, Patricia	*****	<a href="#"><u>8/3/17</u></a>	<p><b>Depth.</b> The more pages I read in Patricia Lockwood's memoir titled, <a href="#"><u>Priestdaddy</u></a>, the more I wanted to read. Her prose is wonderful. I don't know how long it took her to compose each sentence, but the result is terrific. She can be hilarious at the beginning of a paragraph, and by the end, can leave a reader with a deep insight into human nature. Her father, Greg Lockwood, is a Catholic priest. Her home life was unusual, and she mines her father's quiriness and the family situation for all she can find and share. She can be raunchy on one page, slapstick hilarious on the next, and then offer deep insight. Lockwood does all this with such ease and grace that I finished the book hungry for more.</p> 
<a href="#"><u>A Man of Parts</u></a>	Lodge, David	**	<a href="#"><u>11/22/11</u></a>	<p><b>Cranky.</b> It didn't take me long to get cranky while reading David Lodge's fictional biography of H.G. Wells titled, <a href="#"><u>A Man of Parts</u></a>. Perhaps the genre of fictional biography leaves me cold. While I found Lodge's writing to be engaging, I found the character of Wells to be far less interesting than either Wells' writing or Lodge's. The constraints of this quirky subject who lived a complex and vibrant life became tiresome for me after a hundred or so pages. I slogged through to the end, but remained cranky to the last. Readers with affection for Wells or who enjoy Lodge's writing are those most likely to enjoy this book.</p> 

Author Author	Lodge, David			Shelf of Reproach 2004	
<a href="#">Deaf Sentence</a>	Lodge, David	***	<a href="#">Dec 08</a>	<b>Aging.</b> Expertly written novel riffs on all the ways in which we are challenged as we age, with special emphasis on the misunderstandings that can entrap the hard of hearing.	
<a href="#">The Power of Full Engagement: Managing Energy, Not Time Is the Key to High Performance and Personal Renewal</a>	Loehr, Jim and Tony Schwartz	***	<a href="#">Aug 03</a>	<b>Energizing.</b> Most executives have managed the stress part of personal energy management, but often falter in finding the right methods for recovery to regain energy. This book tells stories about what has worked for clients, including athletes.	
Oak	Logan, William Bryant	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<a href="#">The Most Fun We Ever Had</a>	Lombardo, Claire	*****	<a href="#">9/3/19</a>	<b>Losses.</b> I was primed to think favorably about Claire Lombardo's debut novel titled, <a href="#">The Most Fun We Ever Had</a> . Lombardo sets the novel in her hometown, Oak Park, Illinois, where I live now, and I've lived in this village longer than anyplace else. The ginkgo leaves on the cover are from a tree in Oak Park that plays an important role at multiple points in the novel. Because Lombardo presents a large ensemble of characters, this is a long novel as	

she never rushes to develop interesting characters and reveal their secrets, their loves and their losses. Lombardo moves us forward and backward in time as the narrative demands, and I found myself enjoying every new dimension more than the last. Every family has its ups and downs, and in this extended family we get to feel the loves and losses with depth and insight. Lombardo gives readers a messy family for our messy times. Patient readers are rewarded with embracing the fullness of life and the ways in which the answer to most questions involves love.

**Prodigal.** If the usual role of children is to drive their parents to distraction, the preferred role for parents is to love their children no matter what. Joan London explores the parent-child relationship in her novel, [The Good Parents](#). Maya de Jong leaves her rural small town at age 20 for a new life and job in Melbourne. As her parents, Toni and Jacob, arrive for an extended visit with her, Maya disappears. London uses that tension to lead Toni and Jacob to reflect on their youth, and the compromises and choices they've made throughout their lives. London mines each character for the ways in which one life needs to be abandoned before another can begin. Wandering and deep love converge on these pages, as does loss and disappointment. London's fine writing makes the process of reflection come alive.



[The Good Parents](#)

London, Joan

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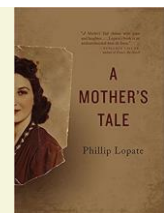
[4/18/09](#)

[A Mother's Tale](#)

Lopate, Phillip

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



Horizon

Lopez, Barry

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

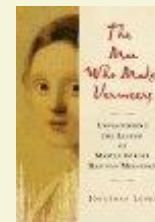


The Man Who Made Vermeers: Unvarnishing the Legend of Master Forger Han van Meegeren

Lopez, Jonathan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009



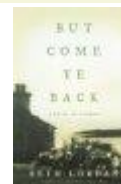
But Come Ye Back: A Novel in Stories

Lordan, Beth

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June 04

**Lovely.** Novel in stories captures Ohio couple who retire to Ireland and continue to change and grow with all the complexity of mature marriages and long-intertwined lives.

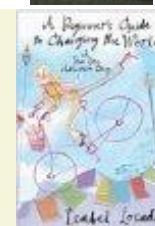


A Beginner's Guide to Changing the World

Losada, Isabel

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



The Rest of Us

Lott, Jessica

\*\*\*\*

5/16/14

**Artists.** I find that at some times I prefer novels that reinforce for me a familiarity with human nature, and at other times I like novels that introduce to me aspects of human behavior with which I am more unfamiliar. I assign Jessica Lott's debut novel, The Rest of Us, to that latter category. The lives and behavior of the central characters of this novel involve dimensions of academia and art that are unfamiliar to me. I found myself entranced by this love story supplemented by the passion of being artists. I didn't like the characters, and didn't identify with them, but thanks to Lott's fine prose, I kept wanting to see where all this would lead, and how their lives would change. Readers willing to try



a literary debut novel should consider reading this one.

<u>Deviate: The Science of Seeing Differently</u>	Lotto, Beau	****	<u>9/5/18</u>	<p><b>Perceptions.</b> Neuroscientist Beau Lotto blows my mind. In his book titled, <u>Deviate: The Science of Seeing Differently</u>, he explains how our brains have not evolved to see things accurately. It's all about perceptions, and Lotto explains how that part of science operates. Finally, we can appreciate why others see things differently! Perception is subjective. The book is packed with optical illusions that support Lotto's messages.</p>	
<u>Dorothy Day: Dissenting Voice of the American Century</u>	Loughery, John and Blythe Randolph	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>Infused: Adventures in Tea</u>	Lovell, Henrietta	****	<u>5/15/20</u>	<p><b>Care.</b> I admit to being a tea snob, so reading Henrietta Lovell's book titled, <u>Infused: Adventures in Tea</u>, was right up my alley. I nodded at all the ways in which she's passionate about good tea, and the care with which we should treat the finest tea leaves to capture the depth of flavor. As I'm writing this sentence, my bride has just arrived with a pot of Makaibari Estate Darjeeling, II Flush FTGFOP-1. It's brewed perfectly, tastes marvelous and has a light golden color that captures my eye. Whether you're a tea snob or not, if you like to taste delicious things, consider reading this book and expanding your tea consumption into some of the examples she describes along with her stories about the places and people who take care to bring us fine tea. When you're ready to select tea to suit your palate, consider ordering from great tea merchants, my friends Bill and Janet Todd, at <a href="http://www.todd-">http://www.todd-</a></p>	

[holland.com/](http://holland.com/). Next, I'm thinking about brewing a nice China oolong from the mountains.

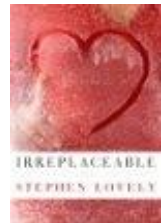
**Relationships.** If you're willing to take a risk on a debut novel this year, consider Stephen Lovely's [Irreplaceable](#). I found myself enjoying this novel more every fifty or so pages as the characters deepened and their lives become more connected. If the protagonist of a novel is the central character, or the heart of the story, in [Irreplaceable](#), the protagonist would be Isabel, or more specifically, her heart. Isabel and her husband, Alex, have been happily married for three years. While riding her bicycle, Isabel is struck by a truck and killed. Having signed an organ donor card, her organs are harvested, and her heart is transplanted into Janet, who teaches art at an inner city school in Chicago. Lovely presents Alex's grief with great skill, and allows that to play out on these pages, alongside that of Isabel's mother, Bernice. Having overheard her doctors comment about the source of her new heart, Janet tracks down Alex and tries to find ways to express her thanks. Janet's own family is dealing with many issues, and Lovely allows those to develop on these pages as well. Another connection comes from the ways in which the driver who killed Isabel, Jasper, enters the lives of Alex, Bernice and Janet. Lovely describes the transplant process with what seemed like accurate thoroughness. He presents intense emotions without making them more outsized than was necessary. His restraint in developing some characters, such as Janet's husband, David, was in many ways a strength, while it left some gaps in understanding David as a real person. All in all, [Irreplaceable](#) is a promising debut by a talented writer.

[Irreplaceable](#)

Lovely, Stephen

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[2/23/09](#)

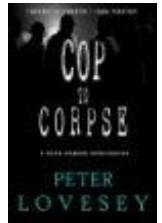




<a href="#"><u>In The Neighborhood: The Search for Community on an American Street, One Sleepover at a Time</u></a>	Lovenheim, Peter	***	<a href="#"><u>6/22/10</u></a>	<p><b>Deliberate.</b> Peter Lovenheim took the concept of “up close and personal” and expanded it when he began to explore a proposal with the people who lived on his street in suburban Rochester, New York. Lovenheim realized how isolated he and his neighbors were from each other, how little they knew about each other, so he knocked on a few doors and tried to change that situation. The approach he pursued with receptive neighbors involved him sleeping over at their homes one night and spending an entire day and night with the family. He describes this process and experience in an entertaining book titled, <a href="#"><u>In The Neighborhood: The Search for Community on an American Street, One Sleepover at a Time</u></a>. As readers would expect, as neighbors came to know each other better, they found ways to care about each other, and act in ways that provided needed support.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Another One Goes Tonight</u></a>	Lovesey, Peter	****	<a href="#"><u>10/9/17</u></a>	<p><b>Cunning.</b> The sixteenth installment in the Detective Peter Diamond mystery series by Peter Lovesey is titled, <a href="#"><u>Another One Goes Tonight</u></a>. At this point in the series, surprises should be rare and some tedium is likely to set in. Instead, I was delightfully surprised by this mystery, and Diamond’s cunning was well-matched with that of a murderer. Mystery lovers who like a good puzzle in a novel with strong characters and an intricate plot are those most likely to enjoy this installment and this series.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Beau Death</u></a>	Lovesey, Peter	****	<a href="#"><u>1/23/18</u></a>	<p><b>Costume.</b> The seventeenth Peter Diamond mystery by Peter Lovesey provides readers with the usual level of humor, good plotting and an interesting case, supported by familiar characters who are all well-developed. Titled, <a href="#"><u>Beau Death</u></a>, this novel, set as usual in Bath, features one of the colorful figures from 18<sup>th</sup> century Bath, Beau Nash, and the contemporary Beau Nash Society in which</p>	

members wear costumes of that period. When a skeleton is discovered in a building being demolished, there's speculation that it might be Beau Nash himself, since authentic attire was found surrounding the bones. The scene in which Chief Inspector Peter Diamond wears a costume provided great comic relief. Fans of traditional well-structured mysteries are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.

**Pacing.** The eleventh Peter Lovesey crime novel to feature Chief Superintendent Peter Diamond is titled Cop to Corpse. The action opens with the killing of a policeman, the third in the Bath area in past few months. With a moderate pace that never got my heart racing, Diamond slowly follows leads and interviews individuals who might help him solve the crime. While I had guessed the murderer early on, I was still entertained when Diamond solved the puzzle. Fans of detective novels with strong protagonists are those most likely to enjoy this one.



Cop to Corpse

Lovesey, Peter

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7/23/12

Down Among the Dead Men

Lovesey, Peter

\*\*\*\*

5/13/16

**Sussex.** Peter Lovesey expands his Peter Diamond crime fiction series with a novel titled, Down Among the Dead Men. Detective Diamond has been dragged kicking and screaming from Bath on an outing to Sussex with his boss, Assistant Chief Constable Georgina Dallymore. Their humorous dialogue is reason enough to recommend this novel. Dallymore was called in specifically to handle an internal investigation about a Sussex detective who was suspended for the handling of a murder case. With Diamond on the case, things are observed and the dots are connected. Fans of crime fiction will find a lot to enjoy in this novel.



Killing with Confetti

Lovesey, Peter

\*\*\*\*

8/15/19

**Wedding.** The eighteenth installment in Peter Lovesey's mystery series featuring Bath head of CID Peter Diamond is a novel titled, Killing with Confetti. Fans who love character-driven crime fiction that's well-plotted are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series. After his son has become engaged to the daughter of a prominent criminal, George Brace, the Deputy Chief Constable, selects Peter Diamond to be in charge of security for the wedding. Lovesey drops lots of great clues and structures a terrific and engaging story. As always, Diamond chafes under his boss Georgina's management, and skirts expected norms and rules in doing his effective work.



The Headhunters

Lovesey, Peter

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



The Secret Hangman

Lovesey, Peter

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Read, but not reviewed.



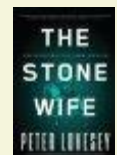
The Stone Wife




Lovesey, Peter

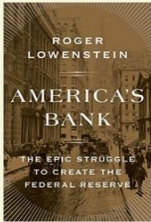

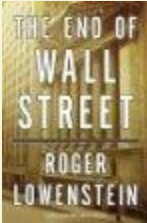
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10/18/14

**Chaucer.** Readers who delight in a well-constructed crime novel that includes ample red herrings are those most likely to enjoy reading the 14<sup>th</sup> installment in the Peter Diamond series by Peter Lovesey titled, The Stone Wife. A Chaucer scholar is murdered at an auction while he is bidding on a stone sculpture which he believes depicts the Wife of Bath. While Diamond takes center stage on the case, the whole team



				<p>contributes to solving the crime. I was especially pleased with all the exposition of Ingeborg's undercover work to identify the source of the murder weapon. Mystery fans can enjoy this novel as a standalone, but those who read the series will find enhanced reading pleasure from deeper insight into all the fascinating recurring characters.</p>	
<a href="#">The Tooth Tattoo</a>	Lovesey, Peter	****	<a href="#">12/12/13</a>	<p><b>Music.</b> The crime novels by Peter Lovesey featuring the head of Bath's Criminal Investigation Division, Peter Diamond, are packed with wit, great characters and engaging plots. Readers who enjoy mysteries should consider Lovesey's latest novel titled, <a href="#">The Tooth Tattoo</a>. A world-renowned classical music quartet provides fascinating characters and an interesting plot, along with a challenge for Diamond. I was thoroughly entertained by Lovesey's pacing and found myself engaged in trying to piece together a solution from carefully placed clues. It was almost as if I were trying to master a complicated musical composition.</p>	
<a href="#">Remembering Jack: Intimate and Unseen Photographs of the Kennedys</a>	Lowe, Jacques	***	<a href="#">Aug 04</a>	<p><b>Vigor.</b> Take a break from this year's presidential campaign, and peek at images from 40 years ago that you've never seen before.</p>	
<a href="#">Damn Right: Behind the Scenes with Berkshire Hathaway Billionaire Charlie Munger</a>	Lowe, Janet	****	<a href="#">04/01</a>	<p>Business leaders can learn many lessons about trust and integrity from the life and example of Charlie Munger, well-presented in this biography. <a href="#">Read longer review.</a></p>	

<a href="#"><u>America's Bank: The Epic Struggle to Create the Federal Reserve</u></a>	Lowenstein, Roger	****	<div> <div>12/18/15</div> <div> <p><b>Truce.</b> Informed and patriotic Americans have been divided by certain unresolved tensions and differences for more than two centuries. In his readable book for general audiences titled, <a href="#"><u>America's Bank: The Epic Struggle to Create the Federal Reserve</u></a>, Roger Lowenstein turns to the beginning of the twentieth century and the environment that led to a truce between the Hamiltonian and Jeffersonian traditions. One would think that the story of the creation of the Federal Reserve would make for boring reading, but Lowenstein enlivens the narrative with fine writing and insight into the key players who got this done. The differences between those citizens who want a strong central government and those who favor more local control and discretion represent a key element in contemporary politics. Having seen the power of the Federal Reserve during the recent financial crisis, there are critics who would like to see the Fed curtailed or eliminated, and those who support how the Fed helped avoid what could have been a global economic depression. Readers interested in public policy and economics will find a lot to enjoy in this book.</p> </div> </div>	
<a href="#"><u>Origins of the Crash: The Great Bubble and Its Undoing</u></a>	Lowenstein, Roger	**	<div> <div>Apr 04</div> <div> <p>Pedantic Primer. Entertaining tour of recent years by a talented guide, but without insight or perspective.</p> </div> </div>	
<a href="#"><u>The End of Wall Street</u></a>	Lowenstein, Roger	****	<div> <div>5/25/10</div> <div> <p><b>Intervention.</b> Roger Lowenstein's <a href="#"><u>The End of Wall Street</u></a>, is not the first book to try to make sense of the recent financial crisis, nor will it be the last. As with his earlier books, this is a valuable contribution to the general reader's understanding of what happened, who did what, what conditions and policies facilitated it all, and what it might mean. This is a journalist's approach to the subject:</p> </div> </div>	

				lots of interviews with the players involved, and plenty of research into what was being done throughout the crisis. The depth of changes within a short period of time transformed Wall Street. The amount of government intervention has been enormous and was done by individuals who were opposed to such intervention before being placed in the situation that demanded such action. Lowenstein's writing takes familiar events and situations and adds context, perspective, and inside color. Any reader interesting in learning more about this pivotal time will enjoy reading this book.	
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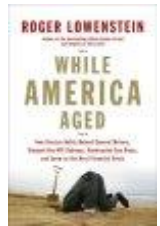
While America Aged: How Pension Debts Ruined General Motors, Stopped the NYC Subways, Bankrupted San Diego, and Loom as the Next Financial Crisis

Lowenstein, Roger

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Aug 08

**Promises.** Chilling description of the pension mess throughout America and ideas on how to mend the ways of corporations, unions and government to allocate resources more effectively.

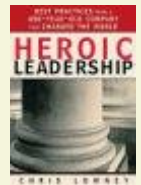


Heroic Leadership: Best Practices from a 450-year-old Company That Changed the World

Lowney, Chris

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004





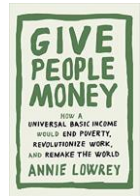
Give People Money: How a Universal Basic Income Would End Poverty, Revolutionize Work, and Remake the World

Lowrey, Annie

\*\*\*\*

8/3/18

**Will.** Annie Lowrey gives any reader interested in public policy a readable overview of the subject of universal basic income in her book titled, Give People Money: How a Universal Basic Income Would End Poverty, Revolutionize Work, and Remake the World. Like the consumption tax, I think UBI could be a policy embraced by both Democrats and Republicans if presented effectively. Democrats will like the idea of providing a stable source of income for all, and Republicans will like the idea of eliminating all the government workers who administer multiple rule-based government assistance programs. My eyes opened a bit wider after reading this book and understanding Lowrey's claim that implementing a UBI is a matter of will, not math.

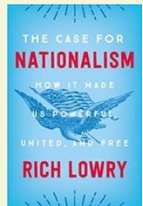


The Case for Nationalism: How It Made Us Powerful, United, and Free

Lowry, Rich

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.

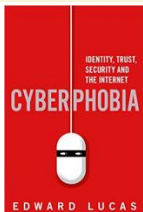


Cyberphobia: Identity, Trust, Security and the Internet

Lucas, Edward

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



Time to Start Thinking: America in the Age of Descent

Luce, Edward

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



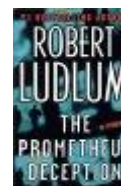
[The Prometheus Deception](#)

Ludlum, Robert

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[01/01](#)

Ludlum delivers another outstanding suspense novel.



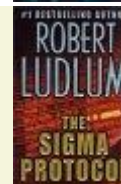
[The Sigma Protocol](#)

Ludlum, Robert

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[Jan 02](#)

Ludlum keeps us guessing who are the good guys and who are the bad guys, as the action unfolds. Ludlum followers will not be disappointed.



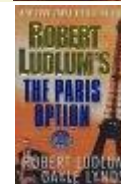
[The Paris Option](#)

Ludlum, Robert and Gayle Lynds

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[Sep 02](#)

Another suspenseful Covert-One thriller in which agent Jon Smith saves America from terrorists, with the help of familiar friends.



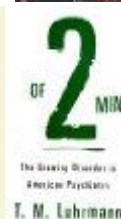
[Of Two Minds: The Growing Disorder in American Psychiatry](#)

Luhrmann, T.M.

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[9/00](#)

Highly recommended by a friend and *Executive Times* subscriber. We found this story of the imbalance between psychopharmacology and psychotherapy disturbing and fascinating. If you have any interest at all in psychiatry, read this book.



When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship with God

Luhrmann, T.M.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



[Lost Children Archive](#)

Luiselli, Valeria

\*\*\*\*

[2/7/20](#)

**Found.** Fans of finely written literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy Valeria Luiselli's novel titled, [Lost Children Archive](#). I can't begin to describe the ways in which Luiselli uses multiple elements to contribute to an imaginative and coherent whole. A family of four travels out West to document sounds and search for children who have been lost crossing the Southern border. The prose



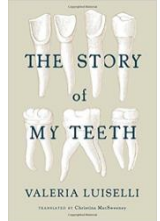
				remains powerful throughout, and the raw humanity in multiple situations will break your heart. We can feel tension building on the journey, and by the time the tension is relieved, we will all have found something important. Through the voices of the ten-year-old boy and five-year-old girl, we learn about ourselves, one of the many reasons we read fiction.	
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The Story of My Teeth

Luiselli, Valeria

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



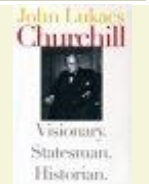
Churchill: Visionary. Statesman. Historian

Lukacs, John

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Feb 03

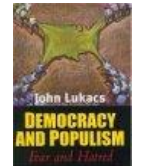
**Forceful.** Short, breezy, clear and opinionated historical perspective on three dimensions of the great Winston Churchill. The writing sparkles.



Democracy and Populism

Lukacs, John

Shelf of Reproach 2005



Five Days in London: May 1940

Lukacs, John

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May 04

**On the Brink.** Defeatists and appeasers in the British government were ready to give up the fight against Hitler, but Churchill convinced them otherwise. Lukacs claims these five days saved Western Civilization from the revolution of National Socialism, its greatest threat.



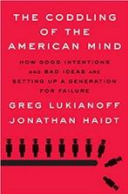
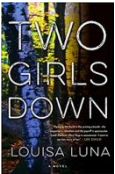

The Future of History

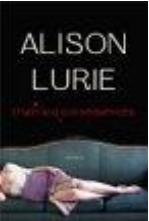

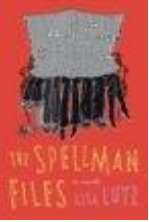
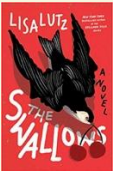
Lukacs, John

Unread

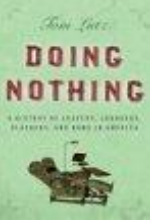
Shelf of Ennui 2012.



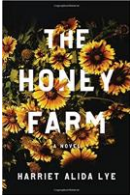
<a href="#"><u>The Coddling of the American Mind</u></a>	Lukianoff, Greg and Jonathan Haidt	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<a href="#"><u>Two Girls Down</u></a>	Luna, Louisa	*****	<a href="#"><u>11/6/18</u></a>	<p><b>Vega.</b> You may forget to re-apply sunscreen if you're reading Louisa Luna's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Two Girls Down</u></a>, at the beach. Two girls have gone missing, and a family member has called in Alice Vega to help find them. Vega isn't warmly received by the local police, so she teams up with a local private eye, Max Caplan. Luna develops these characters and the whole cast with great skill, while maintaining a plot momentum that fits the thriller genre. Caplan's relationship with his daughter, Nell, was another high point in the novel. I finished reading this novel quickly to great satisfaction and wondered if Luna will continue to write stories featuring Vega, Cap and Nell. I'm ready to read them if she does.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Facades</u></a>	Lundgren, Eric	***	<a href="#"><u>1/21/14</u></a>	<p><b>Loneliness.</b> Eric Lundgren's debut novel, <a href="#"><u>The Facades</u></a>, left me scratching my head, and almost tempted to read it a second time. Protagonist Sven Norberg is a legal clerk whose wife, Molly, has disappeared. They live in a city called Trude, a place that is a shadow of its former grandeur. We learn about Trude as we follow Sven around town in her search for Molly, who is the star mezzo-soprano of the Trude opera. Lundgren's descriptions of Trude are finely drawn and close to dystopian. I felt for Sven's loneliness and alienation as he tries to find Molly, and watches as his son, Kyle, moves out of the family home to live with the family of the minister of a fundamentalist church. There's fine writing in this novel that will appeal most to those</p>	


				readers who enjoy literary fiction and are interested in reading debut novels.	
<a href="#">Truth and Consequences</a>	Lurie, Alison	***	<a href="#">Feb 06</a>	<b>Deceits.</b> Professor Lurie sets her latest novel at Cornell again, and with no excess exposition, allows readers to savor the deceits in the relationships of four academic characters.	
Car Guys vs. Bean Counters: The Battle for the Soul of American Business	Lutz, Bob	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
The Spellman Files	Lutz, Lisa	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<a href="#">The Swallows</a>	Lutz, Lisa	***	<a href="#">4/9/20</a>	<b>Objectification.</b> The prep school as a petri dish for growing diseased human behavior may be overdone in fiction, but Lisa Lutz uses the setting with skill in her novel titled, <a href="#">The Swallows</a> . After Alexandra Witt reluctantly joins the faculty at Stonebridge Academy, her creative writing assignment becomes a reagent to identify the rot of abhorrent behavior at this coed school. We're drawn into a toxic environment in which female students are objectivized by males in an organized and systematic way. We see the power dynamics at work in the school and the escalation of the resistance by the female students to the system. There were times I felt guilty for laughing and wondered if Lutz led me successfully into that trap. Some of her phrases made me stop as she caught	

				me by surprise. Provided your appetite for reading about oral sex exists, this novel is a way of seeing MeToo in yet one more dimension.	
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Doing Nothing	Lutz, Tom	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
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My Two Italies	Luzzi, Joseph	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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<a href="#"><u>The Honey Farm</u></a>	Lye, Harriet Alida	*****	<a href="#"><u>7/24/18</u></a>	<p><b>Plagues.</b> Harriet Alida Lye's debut novel is titled, <a href="#"><u>The Honey Farm</u></a>. Things are not as they appear on the farm where protagonist Silvia arrives to spend the summer doing manual labor in exchange for room, board and a chance to write. Lye's finely written prose will delight those readers who enjoy literary fiction. Close readers will revel in the many levels of meaning involving themes of faith, nature, power and control. Silvia seems to have arrived on the set of a bible scene when a series of plagues hit the farm: drought, frogs, lice, water turning red. Silvia finds all kinds of coming of age experiences on the farm, and Lye slowly unveils a story that falls hard by the end.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>The Italian Party</u></a>	Lynch, Christina	*****	<a href="#"><u>6/10/19</u></a>	<p><b>Siena.</b> Christina Lynch takes readers to Tuscany in her novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Italian Party</u></a>. Set in the 1950s, protagonists Scottie and her husband, Michael, have moved to Siena as newlyweds, bringing along their respective secrets and hiding new ones in plain sight. Lynch explores truth and lies, while we vicariously eat, drink, watch the Palio and can't wait to see what happens next to this cast of interesting characters.</p>	
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When the Luck of the Irish Ran Out: The World's Most Resilient Country and Its Struggle to Rise Again

Lynch, David J.

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2/11/11

**Troubles.** David Lynch has written a lively account of the bubble and bust of the Celtic tiger in his book, When the Luck of the Irish Ran Out. He covers the politicians and the bankers along with the property developers and the Irish consumers. The key word in the title is “luck;” Lynch makes the point that the Irish had good luck on the way up, and bad luck on the way down. If you haven’t selected your Saint Patrick’s Day reading yet, consider giving this book a try, and lift a pint or two to commiserate with the troubles of the Irish. A short and finely written essay on the same topic comes from Michael Lewis in the March 2011 issue of *Vanity Fair* titled, “When Irish Eyes Are Crying.” If you like Lewis’ article, chances are good that you’ll enjoy Lynch’s book.

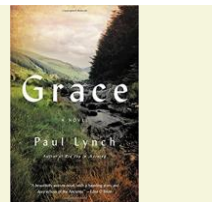


Grace

Lynch, Paul

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



Leg the Spread: A Woman's Adventures Inside the Trillion-Dollar Boys' Club of Commodities Trading

Lynn, Cari

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Apr 05

**Winning.** Life in the pits at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange is all about winning, and for women the path to winning has some added obstacles. Entertaining and interesting look at some fascinating people.

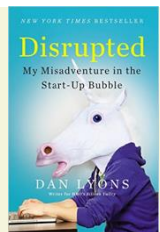


Disrupted: My Misadventure in the Start-Up Bubble

Lyons, Dan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



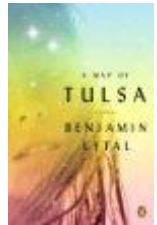
[A Map of Tulsa](#)

Lytal, Benjamin

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[7/26/13](#)

**Geography.** I was engaged and entertained by Benjamin Lytal's debut novel, [A Map of Tulsa](#). The friendship between Jim Praley and Adrienne Booker provides the backdrop for this coming of age story. Lytal addresses loss and grief in the novel in ways that seemed fresh and familiar at the same time. While I have never been to Tulsa, the geography of that place became so detailed and specific it was as if the place were another character in the novel. Readers who enjoy coming of age stories and are willing to take a chance on a debut novel are those most likely to enjoy this well-crafted work.



The Gentle Subversive : Rachel Carson, Silent Spring, and the Rise of the Environmental Movement

Lytle, Mark Hamilton

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



[Severance](#)

Ma, Ling

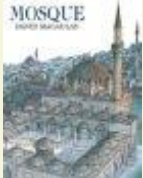
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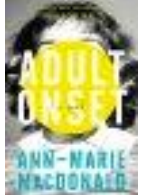
[12/9/19](#)


**Routine.** I enjoyed the deep insight into contemporary life on the pages of Ling Ma's debut novel titled, [Severance](#). Protagonist Candace Chen came to the United States from China as a little girl. Most of the action in this humorous and satiric novel takes place while Candace is working in New York as a young adult following the death of both parents. Her routine is constant: work for a Manhattan publisher monitoring the production of specialty books in China, followed by watching movies in a basement apartment in Brooklyn. A global disease called Shen Fever is killing people everywhere, but Candace seems immune and continues her routine. Readers will recognize Candace as a representative of her age cohort and as the child of immigrants who wanted the best for

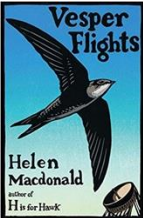


her. We root for her as she does what's necessary to survive the Shen Fever.


<a href="#">Mosque</a>	Macaulay, David	***	<a href="#">June 04</a>	<b>Pillars.</b> Whether you read Macaulay's earlier books, including: <i>Castle</i> , <i>Cathedral</i> , <i>City</i> , <i>Mill</i> , and <i>Pyramid</i> , or not, you're likely to observe and to learn something new in this latest book.	
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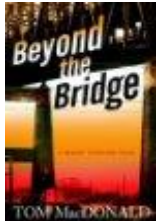
Adult Onset	MacDonald, Ann-Marie	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2015.		
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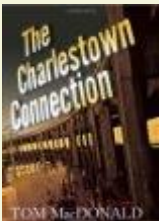
<a href="#">H Is for Hawk</a>	Macdonald, Helen	*****	<a href="#">9/23/15</a>	<b>Intense.</b> I expected to browse a few pages of Helen Macdonald's memoir titled, <a href="#">H Is for Hawk</a> , and then set it aside. After all, I have no interest in goshawks or other birds of prey, and couldn't imagine that this book would keep my attention. By the second page, Macdonald had me in her talons, thanks to her fine writing. I find that memoirs can offer readers insight into lives quite different from our own while providing insight into our own lives. Macdonald writes this memoir as she grieves her father's death, and the raw intensity of her grief embeds the prose with its power. I think this is one of the finest explorations of grief that I have ever read.	
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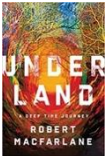
<a href="#">Vesper Flights</a>	Macdonald, Helen	****	<a href="#">9/8/20</a>	<b>Outside.</b> I spent a half hour sitting on the screened back porch yesterday morning watching a hummingbird rest at our feeder, sheltered from the rain, and slurping our sugar water. I had just finished reading Helen Macdonald's essay collection titled, <a href="#">Vesper Flights</a> , so I was primed to observe birds or other aspects of nature and not pay attention to the passing of time. Each of her essays in this collection contains fine writing and close observations about our world and ourselves. As I	
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write this quick review, I'm back on the porch looking up often from the laptop to watch a bird in flight, a squirrel leaping from one branch to another, a Monarch landing on the milkweed and a rabbit scooting to a hiding place under a shrub. Grand!

Easter Rising	MacDonald, Michael Patrick	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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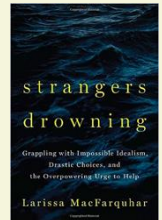
Beyond the Bridge	MacDonald, Thomas	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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<a href="#"><u>The Charlestown Connection</u></a>	MacDonald, Tom	***	<a href="#"><u>6/15/12</u></a>	<b>Exchanges.</b> I had the feeling while reading Tom MacDonald's debut novel, <a href="#"><u>The Charlestown Connection</u></a> , that he had been thinking about writing this book for a long time. Readers who like crime fiction should consider reading this one. The names of the characters alone were a kick: protagonist Dermot Sparhawk, for one. Set mostly in Boston's Charlestown neighborhood, MacDonald makes the people and the place appear vivid to the reader. The imaginative plot kept me engaged and entertained, especially with the interesting exchanges of art works.	
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<a href="#"><u>Underland: A Deep Time Journey</u></a>	MacFarlane, Robert	****	<a href="#"><u>9/13/19</u></a>	<b>Guide.</b> Readers could find no better nature guide than Robert MacFarlane, and his book titled, <a href="#"><u>Underland: A Deep Time Journey</u></a> , takes us on a global tour of what is and has been beneath the surface of the earth. On one page we're thinking about the moment of creation, on another we're	
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peering at cave paintings and thinking about that part of the past, and then we find ourselves wondering about our stewardship of the earth and what lies ahead for our planet. He takes us to the Paris catacombs and to a place where nuclear waste is stored. MacFarlane's writing is as beautiful as the world he calls on us to notice. I haven't experienced this much awe since reading Carl Sagan. Most readers will finish this book as I did: feeling a closer connection to those and what has come before us.

**Extreme.** Some of us, for better or for worse, live by the principle that if it's worth doing, it's worth overdoing. To those who appreciate the extreme meaning of "too much of a good thing," Larissa MacFarquhar introduces readers to individuals for whom doing good becomes extreme. Her book titled, Strangers Drowning: Grappling with Impossible Idealism, Drastic Choices, and the Overpowering Urge to Help, offers an unusual take on altruism. She profiles individuals who have become totally devoted to helping others. I finished the book wondering how to process these stories of people whose strong ethical commitments seemed to be lead them to live miserable lives.



Strangers Drowning: Grappling with Impossible Idealism, Drastic Choices, and the Overpowering Urge to Help

MacFarquhar,  
Larissa

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4/6/16

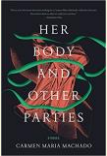
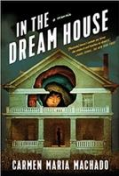
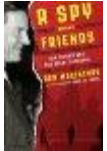
The Media  
Relations  
Department of  
Hizbollah  
Wishes You a  
Happy Birthday:  
Unexpected  
Encounters in  
the Changing  
Middle East

MacFarquhar,  
Neil

Unread


Shelf of Ennui 2010



<a href="#"><u>Her Body and Other Parties</u></a>	Machado, Carmen Maria	*****	<a href="#"><u>1/12/18</u></a>	<p><b>Pick.</b> Pick any reason to read Carmen Maria Machado's collection of short stories titled, <a href="#"><u>Her Body and Other Parties</u></a>, but read it. If you're a man, Machado considers us a different species, and she may well be right. If you're a woman, Machado articulates a variety of topics relating to women that will either resonate or clash with your views and experiences. If you enjoy finely written prose, Machado provides that in every story. If you are comfortable with post-modern literature, Machado's experiments here will interest you. I added this book to my reading list because it was a National Book Award finalist. Having read it, I understand why.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>In the Dream House</u></a>	Machado, Carmen Maria	*****	<a href="#"><u>4/16/20</u></a>	<p><b>Abuse.</b> In her memoir titled, <a href="#"><u>In the Dream House</u></a>, Carmen Maria Machado explores emotional abuse from a variety of perspectives. Thanks to her fine writing and persistent wit, readers are unlikely to become morose or depressed after reading this book. We can read memoirs to understand things about human nature, including behavior in forms we have not experienced ourselves. The result is a greater appreciation and empathy for what each of us can face, and insight into those interpersonal dynamics that can operate at many different levels.</p>	
The Wake of Forgiveness	Machart, Bruce	Unread		I read until page 29 when I lost interest. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	
<a href="#"><u>A Spy Among Friends: Kim Philby and the Great Betrayal</u></a>	Macintyre, Ben	***	<a href="#"><u>10/18/14</u></a>	<p><b>Fraternity.</b> Readers who are interested in espionage after World War II are those most likely to enjoy reading Ben Macintyre's book titled, <a href="#"><u>A Spy Among Friends: Kim Philby and the Great Betrayal</u></a>. I knew a lot of this story before reading this book, and understood how so many of the players went to</p>	



the same schools, belonged to same clubs, and were vulnerable to betrayal because it was unimaginable that one of “our kind” would behave dastardly. Macintyre’s research uncovered one particular relationship: between traitor Kim Philby and his best friend, Nicholas Elliott. That pivotal relationship and its consequences serve as the centerpiece for this interesting account of cold war activities.

Agent Zigzag: A True Story of Nazi Espionage, Love, and Betrayal	MacIntyre, Ben	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
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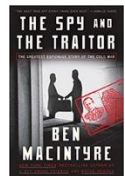
**Gripping.** Sometimes a difference between fiction and non-fiction is that the real-life version can seem to demand way too much suspension of disbelief. In his true story titled, [The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War](#), Ben Macintyre tells us about the life of Oleg Gordievsky, a Russian spy and the child of KGB agents. Beginning in 1973 he was working secretly for MI6 and played a key role in defusing cold war tensions. His dramatic extraction from Russia kept my heart beating rapidly as I read of his ordeal. Readers interested in international relations, especially espionage, are those most likely to appreciate this gripping story.

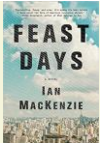
[The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War](#)

Macintyre, Ben

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[2/8/19](#)



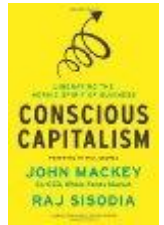
<a href="#"><u>Feast Days</u></a>	MacKenzie, Ian	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
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Conscious  
Capitalism:  
Liberating the  
Heroic Spirit of  
Business

Mackey, John  
and Raj Sisodia

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



Bring Out the  
Dog

Mackin, Will

\*\*\*\*

5/3/18

**Field.** There are eleven short stories in the debut collection by Will Mackin titled, Bring Out the Dog. Mackin is an Iraq and Afghanistan war veteran and these stories capture Mackin's perspectives about different aspects of the field of war. Most readers will not have the field experience of these long wars, and Mackin finds ways of making a reader feel that we can understand the people and the places he describes, as well as the feelings of the characters Mackin presents.



Tethered

MacKinnon,  
Amy

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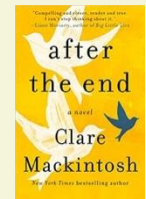
1/3/09

**Flowers.** Amy MacKinnon's debut novel, Tethered, is captivating and haunting. Protagonist Clara Marsh is a mortician, leading an isolated life in a small house on the same property as the funeral home run by her boss, who lives with his wife above the viewing rooms. Clara remodeled her house to add a greenhouse, hidden from view, her secret garden. After she prepares a body, she selects the appropriate flower for that person. Clara's character as developed by MacKinnon has much in common with the dead and with the flowers: you can see something, but there's a part that's missing or dead. After a little girl named Trecie begins to visit Clara and the funeral home, Clara gets caught up in trying to solve the mystery of who murdered a little girl named Precious Doe years earlier. Along the way, Clara meets a widower, detective Mike Sullivan, who is trying to solve the Doe case, and their relationship seems to have potential, but never quite develops. While a promising debut with some fine prose, I found the character development

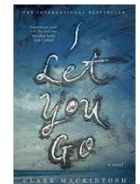


to be weak, and that caused much of what was good in the novel to fall apart for me. More patient readers might enjoy [Tethered](#) more than I did. I'm not disappointed that I gave this debut author a try.




**Divergent.** Clare Mackintosh's emotionally taut novel is titled, [After the End](#). Parents Max and Pip face a difficult choice in how to treat their brain damaged child, Dylan. The tension in the novel comes when the parents diverge in choosing the best approach in caring for Dylan. Mackintosh explores these relationships, the heart wrenching decisions that need to be made, and the meaning of quality of life. She reveals ways in which the divergent paths might play out over time. I learned at the end of the novel that the story is a personal one for the author who faced a similar situation. Writers are often advised to write about what they know, and it is with emotional depth and great skill and personal knowledge that Mackintosh describes the most difficult choices that parents may ever make.

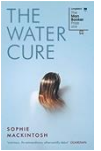
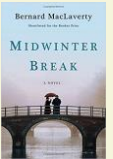


**Abuse.** Clare Mackintosh grabbed me from page one of novel titled, [I Let You Go](#). Five-year-old Jacob Jordon let go of his mother's hand for just a second on a Bristol street in front of their home, and dies at the hand of a hit and run driver. The pace remains fast through the multiple narrators, as Mackintosh draws us into understanding of victims and the consequences of abuse. I was surprised by certain plot twists, and that added to my reading pleasure. Readers who enjoy psychological fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.



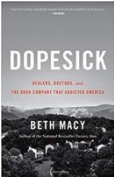
<a href="#">After the End</a>	Mackintosh, Clare	*****	<a href="#">7/23/20</a>	
<a href="#">I Let You Go</a>	Mackintosh, Clare	*****	<a href="#">10/4/16</a>	

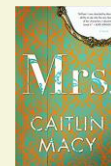
<a href="#"><u>I See You</u></a>	Mackintosh, Clare	****	<a href="#"><u>3/14/17</u></a>	<p><b>Stalked.</b> There were times when I was ready to put aside Clare Mackintosh's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>I See You</u></a>. Then Mackintosh did something with the plot or a character to surprise me, so I needed to keep reading. She maintains a level of tension in the novel that will please those readers who enjoy crime thrillers. This is a novel about women who are being stalked and it will chill many readers. Aspects of our surveillance society will be creepy for those readers who are anxious enough about new threats in our connected world. Most readers will be entertained by the fast-paced plot and interesting twists.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Let Me Lie</u></a>	Mackintosh, Clare	****	<a href="#"><u>5/11/18</u></a>	<p><b>Turns.</b> Fans of intricately plotted crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy Clare Mackintosh's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Let Me Lie</u></a>. Protagonist Anna Johnson is a new mom who still grieves the death of both her parents within the past year. After Anna receives a message that "it was not suicide," she stumbles onto retired detective Murray Mackenzie who now works as a civilian at the desk of a local police station. Murray, Anna and readers are all trying to connect the dots as Mackintosh uses multiple narrators to present the story and to lead us all astray. I gave up counting the number of turns I made while reading this novel. By the end, I was entertained and satisfied, confident that I will do a better job at finding clues next time.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Blue Ticket</u></a>	Mackintosh, Sophie	****	<a href="#"><u>10/12/20</u></a>	<p><b>Destiny.</b> Fiction can help readers think about the different ways in which society could be organized and the ways in which individuals respond to social constraints. In her novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Blue Ticket</u></a>, Sophie Mackintosh describes a world in which motherhood is determined at the time of menarche when a young woman goes to a machine that spits out either a white ticket to set her on the path toward motherhood or a blue ticket that leads her to the</p>	

			insertion of permanent birth control. Protagonist Calla has been given a blue ticket, and the novel explores the ways in which she responds to this destiny.	
<a href="#"><u>The Water Cure</u></a>	Mackintosh, Sophie	***	<a href="#"><u>12/9/19</u></a> <b>Protection.</b> Sophie Mackintosh's debut novel is titled, <a href="#"><u>The Water Cure</u></a> . Some undescribed catastrophe hit the mainland, so parents named King and Mother have taken their daughters, Grace, Lia and Sky, to an island for protection. The daughters are subjected to a variety of therapies to keep them pure, including keeping their hands in frozen water and sweating in a sauna until unconscious. Taught to fear strangers, especially men, the daughters live in isolation with ways of living to which they have become accustomed. This situation can't endure, so after King disappears, and strangers arrive on the island, the therapies for protection fall aside and unmet needs are confronted. Readers are left to ponder big questions from this novel about gender, cults, and the stories we can be led to believe and the ways we can live when prompted that this is the way things are.	
<a href="#"><u>Midwinter Break</u></a>	MacLavery, Bernard	****	<a href="#"><u>11/21/17</u></a> <b>Marriage.</b> One thought I had half way through Bernard MacLavery's finely written novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Midwinter Break</u></a> , was that the author was accomplishing lots of things in very few pages, a quality I always appreciate. Things are not they appear as Irish retirees Gerry and Stella Gilmore leave their home in Scotland for a holiday in Amsterdam. MacLavery captures with great skill the many ways in which long-married couples fall into patterns of behavior and do things that can be concurrently endearing and annoying. Habits and the reaction of a spouse to those habits can become the refining fire of a strong relationship or the consuming flame of a weakening one. Thanks to MacLavery's astute character development and	

				<p>finely written prose, we learn a lot about the habits in this marriage, the transforming events of their past, and the uncertainties ahead.</p> <p><b>Kindness.</b> How can we possibly repay the kindness of strangers? Do our memories define our identity? David Stuart MacLean's memoir, <a href="#"><u>The Answer to the Riddle Is Me</u></a>, goes a long way to explore those questions. The life-altering event that MacLean shares with readers involves what happened following his adverse reaction to an anti-malarial drug called Lariam. Following a blackout in a Hyderabad train station, he awakens with no recollection of who or what he is. Thanks to a kindly train station agent and a police officer, he finds protection and care. He presents his search to figure out who he is with well-written prose and great insight into the formation of identity. Any reader interested in the mind, drug reactions or the ways in which we rely on others to become ourselves will find a lot to enjoy in this book.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Answer to the Riddle Is Me: A Memoir of Amnesia</u></a>	MacLean, David Stuart	*****	<a href="#"><u>5/16/14</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America</u></a>	MacLean, Nancy	*****	<a href="#"><u>1/22/19</u></a>	<p><b>Assault.</b> Sometimes a historian stumbles into a trove of documents and can connect the dots about past events. After Nancy MacLean ran across economist James Buchanan's voluminous and overlooked files, she unraveled the secret plan developed by wealthy members of the radical right to shape America in specific ways. In her book titled, <a href="#"><u>Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America</u></a>, MacLean describes the history of a libertarian movement and the planned and careful ways in which a minority became the arbiters of how our democracy operates. While MacLean considers these actions as an assault on democracy, some readers will see this book as documentation of the success of a very long plan. Any citizen interested in</p>	



				learning about political power in the United States should consider reading this book.	
<u>Light Lifting</u>	MacLeod, Alexander	***	<u>5/18/12</u>	<p><b>Realistic.</b> Short story fans willing to give a debut collection a chance are those most likely to enjoy Alexander MacLeod's <u>Light Lifting</u>. Each of the seven stories presents characters and life situations that can seem ordinary. With MacLeod's writing skill, these realistic situations, especially in dealing with adversity, can seem deceptively simple. He tells compact stories that develop the identity of characters quickly and weaves in themes of hope and redemption. He finds ways to plumb the psychological lives of his characters to place them in settings that lead to behavior that brings readers a deeper understanding of human nature.</p>	
<u>Nixon and Mao: The Week That Changed the World</u>	MacMillan, Margaret	***	<u>Aug 07</u>	<p><b>Transformation.</b> Context and details about Nixon's 1972 visit to China, packed with the who, what, why and how that will interest readers who want to understand the importance of what happened that week.</p>	
<u>Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America</u>	Macy, Beth	****	<u>9/24/18</u>	<p><b>Crisis.</b> I've paid intermittent attention to the opioid crisis in America, having read articles every now and then about increasing rates of addiction, about the Sackler family and Purdue Pharma, and the struggles of some rural communities to respond to the crisis. Now that I've read Beth Macy's book titled, <u>Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America</u>, I better understand the scope of the crisis which is larger and more sinister than I had imagined. Greed and negligence have combined to kill and cripple too many people for too long.</p>	

<a href="#"><u>Mrs.</u></a>	Macy, Caitlin	*****	<a href="#"><u>4/19/19</u></a>	<p><b>Connections.</b> Caitlin Macy set her novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Mrs.</u></a>, on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, just after the financial crisis, and offers a cast of characters including the old rich and the new rich. One connection among the characters involves their children who attend what all the elites know is the best private school. Backstories and past connections among characters provide depth to the novel in which Macy delivers great insight into the lives of the wealthy in Manhattan. There's a group of school moms who provide the bitchy equivalent of a Greek chorus. At the core there's a smaller cast of characters of deep complexity and secrets. Macy uses multiple points of view to draw us into this world. While lots of readers will enjoy this novel, it seems tailor made for book clubs, especially ones with school moms.</p>	
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Molly Fox's Birthday

Madden, Deirdre

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2011



<a href="#"><u>Blowout: Corrupted Democracy, Rogue State Russia, and the Richest, Most Destructive Industry on Earth</u></a>	Maddow, Rachel	*****	<a href="#"><u>10/15/19</u></a>	<p><b>Transparency.</b> You already know what Rachel Maddow thinks about the fossil fuel industry by the subtitle of her book titled, <a href="#"><u>Blowout: Corrupted Democracy, Rogue State Russia, and the Richest, Most Destructive Industry on Earth</u></a>. Inside this book, you'll find over 400 pages describing corruption and malfeasance in the oil and gas business around the world. Maddow offers praise of place to Rex Tillerson and his calm demeanor while he enters into lucrative and shady partnerships with Vladimir Putin. Maddow calls for action including transparency, the elimination of subsidies, and steps to reduce the corrupt influence of this business on democracy.</p>	
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Drift: The  
Unmooring of  
American  
Military Power

Maddow, Rachel

\*\*\*\*

4/19/12

**Compelling.** Open-minded readers will find a compelling argument about American military bloat in Rachel Maddow's book, Drift: The Unmooring of American Military Power. Those readers who have pigeonholed Maddow as a liberal automaton may be deaf to her articulate, witty and thoughtful approach in this book. I found this book to be a reasoned and reasonable exploration of the ways in which we have drifted from our foundational values about a standing military, and for a variety of reasons have funded a military that is too easy to engage in foreign entanglements. True conservatives and libertarians will find her case to be compelling. Any reader interested in public affairs and public policy issues should seriously consider reading this book whether you generally agree or disagree with Maddow.



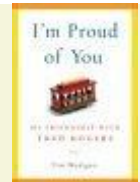
I'm Proud of  
You

Madigan, Tim

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Mar 07

**Friendship.** Eavesdrop on the friendship that grew between the author and the late Fred Rogers. As a bonus, read the letters that Fred sent to Tim that display goodness and friendship.

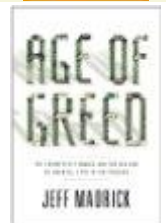


Age of Greed:  
The Triumph of  
Finance and the  
Decline of  
America, 1970  
to the Present

Madrick, Jeff

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2012.



Seven Bad  
Ideas: How  
Mainstream  
Economists  
Have Damaged  
America and the  
World

Madrick, Jeff

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.

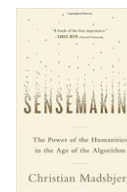


Sensemaking:  
The Power of  
the Humanities  
in the Age of the  
Algorithm

Madsbjerg,  
Christian

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



The  
Undertaking

Magee, Audrey

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



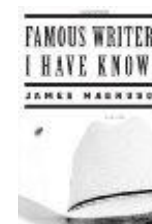
Famous Writers  
I Have Known

Magnuson,  
James

\*\*\*

5/9/14

**Con.** Frankie Abandonato, the protagonist of James Magnuson's novel, Famous Writers I Have Known, is a con artist. After fleeing New Jersey in haste after he conned a mobster, he finds himself being met at the Austin, Texas airport by three creative writing students who think he is the reclusive writer they are intended to meet and transport to teach in their renowned program. Magnuson's satire will appeal in a special way to anyone familiar with university writing programs. General readers are likely to enjoy the con, the charm of many of the characters, and the pacing of the story.

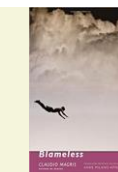


Blameless

Magris, Claudio

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



The Association  
of Small Bombs

Mahajan, Karan


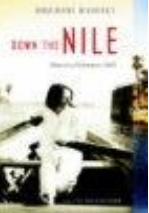
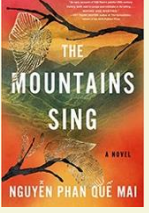
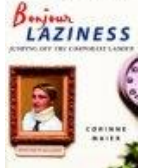
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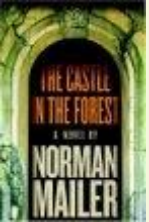


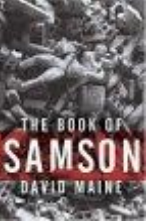
1/16/17

**Survivors.** Readers who love finely written prose should consider Karan Mahajan's novel titled, The Association of Small Bombs. Mahajan draws close attention to a car bomb in New Delhi in 1996 and explores with precision the damage to survivors, including the individuals who were injured but survived the blast, the family of the victims who were killed, those responsible for the bombing, and society overall. All these survivors bear scars. Read



this novel for the fine writing, then ponder what Mahajan has to say to us about living in our complicated and conflicted world.

<a href="#"><u>Seeing Language in Sign: The Work of William C. Stokoe</u></a>	Maher, Jane		<a href="#"><u>05/00</u></a>	Stokoe got American Sign Language acknowledged as a real, mature, full fledged language and thereby changed the lives of generations of deaf students.	
<a href="#"><u>Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff</u></a>	Mahoney, Rosemary	***	<a href="#"><u>Mar 08</u></a>	<b>Travels.</b> Author's fine prose relates her travel to an unfamiliar place (Egypt) where she gets to do what she loves (row). Best for the unhurried armchair traveler's reading at home by the fire.	
<a href="#"><u>The Mountains Sing</u></a>	Mai, Nguyen Phan Que	*****	<a href="#"><u>5/15/20</u></a>	<b>Sacrifice.</b> The first novel in English by poet Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai is titled, <a href="#"><u>The Mountains Sing</u></a> . The multigenerational story of the rise and fall and rise of members of the Trần family in Việt Nam will appeal to any reader or book group that loves to dive into fine writing that draws readers into the lives of people who sacrifice and suffer to obtain a better life. We follow members of the family from their land ownership and wealth prior to the rise of the Communists through the devastation that came from land reform and the wreckage of the Việt Nam War to the present time. This well-told story pulls us into family life and the actions taken to survive and reunite after separation.	
<a href="#"><u>Bonjour Laziness</u></a>	Maier, Corinne	DNR	<a href="#"><u>Sep 05</u></a>	<b>Arrêtez.</b> Nihilistic manifesto for workers to disengage quietly as a protest against management abuses. Neither comic nor provocative. Take a pass.	

<u>The Castle in the Forest</u>	Mailer, Norman	***	<u>Dec 07</u>	<p><b>Evil.</b> Brilliant or clumsy novel (reader's choice) presents the childhood of Adolf Hitler, as narrated by a minor devil, showing how evil began in the formative years.</p>	
<u>The Abundance</u>	Maimudar, Amit	****	<u>5/10/13</u>	<p><b>Values.</b> Immigrants and their children often live in America in ways that are in conflict with both local and homeland cultures. Amit Maimudar presents a very recognizable family in his novel, <u>The Abundance</u>. The protagonist and narrator is the mother of the family, and she is dying of cancer. Her children and her husband respond to this situation in varying ways. Each character questions his or her values from the old world or the new, as the need to face mortality becomes immediate. Cooking sustains them. Maimudar's lyrical prose and lucid narration impressed me throughout the novel. Readers looking for the joy of real life, family relationships, love, and the natural way of death are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
Fallen	Maine, David	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
The Book of Samson	Maine, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	



<a href="#"><u>The Ministry of Guidance Invites You to Not Stay: An American Family in Iran</u></a>	Majd, Hooman	*****	<a href="#"><u>5/28/14</u></a>	<p><b>Ordinary.</b> Most of what I've read about Iran has come from periodicals and focused on troubled politics of one form or another. Thanks to reading Hooman Majd's book, <a href="#"><u>The Ministry of Guidance Invites You to Not Stay</u></a>, I have more impressions about ordinary life in that country. Following many years living in New York, journalist Majd decided to bring his Wisconsin-born wife and newborn son to live for a while in the country of his birth. What I enjoyed most about this book was the everyday joy with which they engaged with others, and the skill with which Majd writes about their experiences. Readers interested in learning more about Iran are those most likely to enjoy this book.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>A Burning</u></a>	Majumdar, Megha	*****	<a href="#"><u>7/15/20</u></a>	<p><b>Aspirations.</b> Three central characters in Megha Majumdar's debut novel titled, <a href="#"><u>A Burning</u></a>, have aspirations that they hope will be met. Set in contemporary India, the novel presents three points of view which combine to help readers absorb the complexity of their lives. Javin is a Muslim woman who has been imprisoned falsely for a terrorist attack. PT Sir was Javin's teacher whose state in life has been ascending because of what he has done for a politician. Lovely is an outcast who wants to be a movie star, and she can provide the alibi to release Javin. Majumdar pulls readers into issues of justice, fate, corruption and desire while using beautiful prose and exhibiting deep insight into human nature.</p>	
Soul Machine: The Invention of the Modern Mind	Makari, George	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

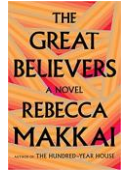
[The Great Believers](#)

Makkai, Rebecca

\*\*\*\*

[10/12/18](#)

**Fragile.** Life is precious, fragile, and bad stuff happens. Our response is to love. In her novel titled, [The Great Believers](#), Rebecca Makkai pulls readers into the AIDS crisis in 1985 and a cast of characters in Chicago whose lives are changed in an instant. A second story line is set in Paris thirty years later with some of the same characters from the earlier timeline. Protagonist Fiona ties the two periods together: mourning the death of her brother, Nico, from AIDS in the 1980s and the search for her estranged daughter in 2015. Makkai's staccato writing moves the plot lines along at a steady pace, and she presents the emotional tension with skill. Living and loving: the grist of most novels, done here with great skill.



[The Hundred-Year House](#)

Makkai, Rebecca

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[10/29/14](#)

**Refuge.** Readers who enjoy clever writing will find hours of pleasure when reading Rebecca Makkai's novel, [The Hundred-Year House](#). The house in the title is an estate named Laurelfeld, near Chicago, and it provides the setting for a meandering plot that starts in 1999, proceeds back to 1955, then 1929, and finally 1900 when the house was built. The crumbs of family secrets and personal stories that Makkai leaves behind in each section become a delightful repast by the time the novel concludes. The estate is used as a refuge by a community of artists for many years, and Makkai's exploration of both refuge and community add a dimension of depth to this finely written novel.

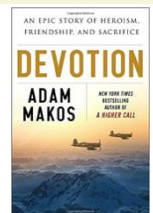




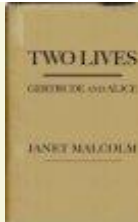

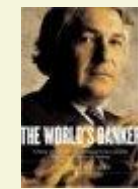
[Devotion: An Epic Story of Heroism, Friendship, and Sacrifice](#)

Makos, Adam

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



<a href="#"><u>A Marker to Measure Drift</u></a>	Maksik, Alexander	****	<a href="#"><u>12/27/13</u></a>	<b>Hunger.</b> Alexander Maksik writes so well that I felt in my gut the hunger being experienced by protagonist Jacqueline, a Liberian refugee in his novel, <a href="#"><u>A Marker to Measure Drift</u></a> . Her trauma, PTSD and suffering permeate the novel. Having escaped Liberia, she is trying to eke out enough of a living to feed herself in a resort setting in Greece. Maksik contrasts wealth and poverty with this setup, and uses beautiful prose to reveal deep and enduring suffering.	
Resurrection	Malarkey, Tucker	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
<a href="#"><u>Two Lives: Gertrude and Alice</u></a>	Malcolm, Janet	**	<a href="#"><u>Jan 08</u></a>	<b>Compact.</b> Brief biography of Stein and Toklas with a focus on what they did during World War II, and who helped them survive.	
More Money Than God: Hedge Funds and the Making of a New Elite	Mallaby, Sebastian	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
The world's banker : story of failed states, financial crises, and the wealth and poverty of nations	Mallaby, Sebastian	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	

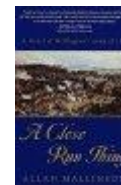
[A Close Run Thing](#)

Mallinson, Allan

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[Sep 03](#)

**Charge!** Readers who enjoy Patrick O'Brian's naval fiction set during the Napoleonic wars will enjoy Mallinson's portrayal of the cavalry.

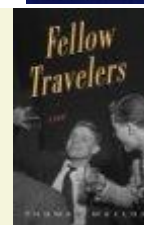


Fellow Travelers

Mallon, Thomas

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Read and not reviewed.

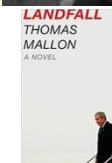


[Landfall](#)

Mallon, Thomas

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



Bill & Dave:  
How Hewlett  
and Packard  
Built the  
World's  
Greatest  
Company

Malone, Michael  
S.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



Bandbox

Malton, Thomas

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



[Chicago](#)

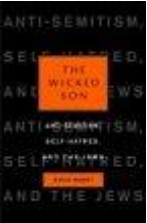
Mamet, David

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[4/16/18](#)

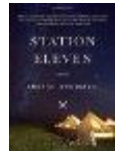
**Dialogue.** Life in Chicago in the 1920s provided a backdrop to showcase David Mamet's fine writing in his novel titled, [Chicago](#). Mamet uses dialogue to draw readers into that time and place. This is not always the dialogue Mamet would write in a screenplay, but he uses dialogue as a way to combine both character development and plot in a meandering way, requiring a reader to give oneself



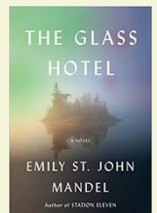
				over to eavesdropping and to letting the plot take care of itself.	
<a href="#">The Wicked Son</a>	Mamet, David	***	<a href="#">Feb 07</a>	<b>Punchy.</b> Aggressive and authoritative polemic that pokes at anti-Semites and Jews who disdain their own culture. Difficult to read and intentionally controversial, it packs a punch.	
The Last Lion: Winston Spencer Churchill: Defender of the Realm, 1940-1965	Manchester, William and Paul Reid	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<a href="#">The Mad and the Bad</a>	Manchette, Jean-Patrick	****	<a href="#">10/29/14</a>	<b>Destruction.</b> I enjoy reading crime fiction, and I can't believe it's taken me so long to finally read a novel by the French writer Jean-Patrick Manchette. It seemed as if I finished reading <a href="#">The Mad and the Bad</a> just a few minutes after I started it. The characters and the plot are presented at a breakneck pace, and Manchette excludes any superfluous exposition. The plotline is a path of delightful destruction and Manchette's targeted social critique made the story even more enjoyable. Fans of crime novels are those most likely to enjoy this book and others by this French master.	
<a href="#">A Philosophy of Ruin</a>	Mancusi, Nicholas	****	<a href="#">9/13/19</a>	<b>Nihilism.</b> What's it all about, Alfie? Philosophy should help steer us toward a deeper understanding of the meaning of life. In his debut novel titled, <a href="#">A Philosophy of Ruin</a> , Nicholas Mancusi offers a brisk and exciting narrative that hovers around what happens if one's philosophy is nihilism. If life is meaningless, how would we live? Protagonist Oscar Boatwright is a philosophy professor whose life has begun to unravel. Mancusi pulls readers into caring	

for Oscar and other characters as they struggle. Often dark, at times funny, the novel propels readers toward an expected ending. Mancusi writes with great skill and many readers after enjoying this initial outing will look forward to more fine prose from this author.

**Insufficient.** I found the perfect novel to read while Ebola virus hysteria swept the United States: Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel. The contagion she creates, the Georgia flu, spreads easily and quickly infects almost the entire global population. In the post-apocalyptic world she builds there is art and hope, thanks to the Traveling Symphony, a troupe of artists who travel from one settlement to another performing music and Shakespeare for the remnant of humans who realize “survival is insufficient,” or, there’s more meaning and purpose to life, and art is of great value. This novel stands alone as being a sweet tale of relationships and the importance of community. There’s tragedy and villains and loss, but at the core, there is love and hope. I expected dystopia and found happiness in this version of life after an apocalyptic event.



**Revelations.** The canvas of Emily St. John Mandel’s novel titled, The Glass Hotel, involves the whole world from 1958 to 2029. I apologize for that spoiler, because the canvas takes a while to uncover. Mandel delivers scenes, narrators and time periods that gradually reveal their connections. The complex characters are so finely drawn that we can anticipate behavior well in advance as we participate through reading in the revelations of what may have been present all along. Protagonist Vincent is a talented bartender in a remote luxury hotel. She is also a prolific filmmaker whose structure involves five minute



Station Eleven

Mandel, Emily  
St. John

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11/7/14

The Glass Hotel

Mandel, Emily  
St. John

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4/16/20



				takes of what seems like nothing. The owner of the hotel, Jonathan Alkaitis, heads a successful investment firm that manages money. We learn early on that his success comes from the Ponzi scheme he has been running. Vincent leaves the hotel to join Alkaitis in a role where most consider her as his wife. As the opaque becomes transparent and what seems transparent become opaque, Mandel leads readers on a delightful reading journey that I enjoyed from beginning to end.	
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Rational exuberance : silencing the enemies of growth and why the future is better than you think

Mandel, Michael J.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



<u>Conversations with Myself</u>	Mandela, Nelson	***	<u>4/9/11</u>	<b>Reminiscences.</b> Nelson Mandela's memoir, <u>Conversations with Myself</u> , seems as unique as the man himself. After some number of pages, there is a facsimile of old notes in Mandela's handwriting. Throughout, there is a combination of reflection and revelation. The person about whom most readers know highlights becomes vivid through these reminiscences of an extraordinary life. Prison, politics and relationships are covered in ways that most readers will find interesting.	
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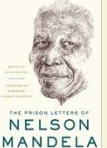
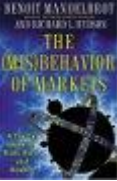
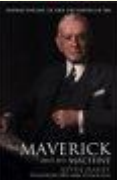

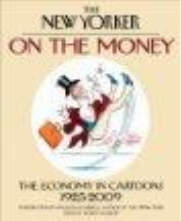
Notes to the Future: Words of Wisdom

Mandela, Nelson

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



<a href="#"><u>The Prison Letters of Nelson Mandela</u></a>	Mandela, Nelson	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
The (mis)behavior of markets : a fractal view of risk, ruin, and reward	Mandelbrot, Benoit B. and Richard L. Hudson	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<a href="#"><u>The Maverick and His Machine: Thomas Watson, Sr. and the Making of IBM</u></a>	Maney, Kevin	***	<a href="#"><u>Oct 03</u></a>	<b>Character.</b> Maney presents Watson in many dimensions: self-absorption; ambition; effective leadership; motivation; shady practices; insecurity; over-confidence and pride. Like today's CEOs.	
<a href="#"><u>Tangerine</u></a>	Mangan, Christine	****	<a href="#"><u>5/11/18</u></a>	<b>Cunning.</b> The great strength of protagonist Lucy Mason in Christine Mangan's debut novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Tangerine</u></a> , is her cunning. Set mostly in Tanger in the 1950s, the novel's descriptive prose and dialogue draws readers into the images and lifestyle of that time and place. Mangan delves into close female relationships in this novel and the skills that one can use to manipulate another. Lucy plays a long game, and Mangan unravels the story with skill as readers are lulled and surprised by the plot.	
<a href="#"><u>On the Money: The Economy in Cartoons, 1925-2009</u></a>	Manikoff, Robert	***	<a href="#"><u>9/26/09</u></a>	<b>Chuckles.</b> The organization by decade of a new cartoon collection from <i>The New Yorker</i> titled, <a href="#"><u>On the Money: The Economy in Cartoons 1925-2009</u></a> , presents a reader with the opportunity to gain insight along with laughter. For example, a lot of the humor in the decade after World War II was about inflation and price increases. Malcolm Gladwell's entertaining introduction to this collection was lively and refreshing. I savored this	

collection by reading one decade at a time. Now, I'll go back through and select my favorites. Any reader who loves the cartoons from *The New Yorker* will enjoy this collection.

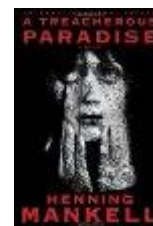
**Journey.** We readers demand much from the fiction we select to read: we want to be entertained by an interesting story that engages us (plot); we want to recognize authentic human behavior from characters that are as deep and as complicated as ourselves; we expect dialogue to ring true to the language we speak and hear; and we want the descriptive language to make us believe we can see the setting where the action occurs. Henning Mankell did all those things for me in his novel, [A Treacherous Paradise](#). The rags to riches story of protagonist Hanna Lundmark on her journey from Sweden to Portuguese East Africa in the early twentieth century maintained my interest. Her ownership of a brothel with a monkey as her closest friend may pique your interest. Mankell used the issues of poverty, wealth, racism, gender equality, and colonialism as a backdrop to action that revealed how difficult it is for us live in community with respect and understanding of our differences. Readers who like strong female protagonists and unusual settings are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

[A Treacherous Paradise](#)

Mankell, Henning

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[8/25/13](#)

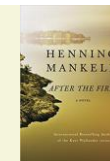


[After the Fire](#)

Mankell, Henning

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



[An Event in Autumn](#)

Mankell, Henning

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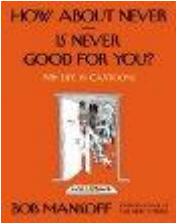
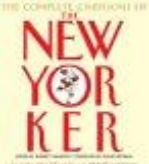
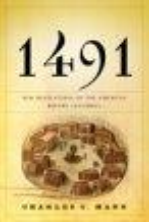
[3/13/15](#)

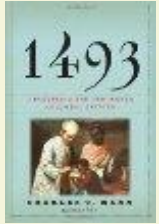

**Retirement.** I find that I like to take the Kurt Wallander novels by Henning Mankell in small doses, because I find the gloominess and depression of Wallander to be contagious. The under two hundred pages of [An Event in Autumn](#)



seemed to me to be just the small dose I could tolerate. I was entertained and felt no contagion from Wallander's loneliness and overall gloom. In this installment of the series, Wallander is considering retirement from the force, and making a move to the country. Through a colleague, he considers a house that he could afford, and plans to make a purchase offer until he finds the skeletal hand of a corpse in the yard. Retirement plans are placed on pause as Wallander tries to identify the deceased and figure out what happened. Fans of the series are those readers most likely to enjoy reading this short addition to the collection, as are those readers who like brief fiction.

Daniel	Mankell, Henning	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
The Man From Beijing	Mankell, Henning	Unread		The gory introductory chapters turned me off, and I stopped reading at page 35. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	
<a href="#"><u>The Troubled Man</u></a>	Mankell, Henning	***	<a href="#"><u>4/9/11</u></a>	<b>Melancholy.</b> The 11 <sup>th</sup> Kurt Wallander title from Henning Mankell is titled, <a href="#"><u>The Troubled Man</u></a> , and most fans of the earlier novels would assume the title refers to the 60-year-old detective himself. While troubled enough, Wallander finds a person even more troubled, 75-year-old Håkan von Enke, a retired naval commander who has spent decades trying to get to the bottom of an incident involving a foreign submarine in Swedish waters. Wallander becomes engrossed in unraveling this mystery, as	

				<p>he also tries to cope with his mortality and the reality of aging. This novel seems to bring the Wallander series to a melancholy conclusion, which should satisfy most readers.</p> <p><b>Bulls-eye.</b> I am at the center of the bulls-eye in the target audience for Bob Mankoff's memoir, <a href="#"><u>How About Never--Is Never Good for You?: My Life in Cartoons</u></a>. As soon as the latest issue of <i>The New Yorker</i> arrives on my iPad, I hit the link that lets me read the cartoons first. After that immediate gratification, I move on to the rest of the issue. After I've finished reading what I want, I remain on the page for the Cartoon Caption Context. I also subscribe to Bob's weekly Laughter Lovers email newsletter. When a galley copy of this book landed on my desk, I dropped everything else to read this mix of text and cartoons. I was delighted from beginning to end. Chances are that if you enjoy the cartoons in <i>The New Yorker</i>, you'll like this view on how the sausage gets made from the perspective of Mankoff, both a talented cartoonist whose recognizable work appears often, and the magazine's current cartoon editor.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>How About Never--Is Never Good for You?: My Life in Cartoons</u></a>	Mankoff, Bob	*****	3/7/14		
The complete cartoons of the New Yorker	Mankoff, Robert	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus	Mann, Charles C.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

<p><u>1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created</u></p>	<p>Mann, Charles C.</p>	<p>****</p>	<p><u>10/25/11</u></p>	<p><b>Globalization.</b> Readers who think of globalization as a modern process will learn much from Charles Mann's book titled, <u>1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created</u>. Mann's lively writing engages readers as he describes the Columbian Exchange, and the ways in which the Americas, Europe and Asia transferred animals, minerals, fauna and flora to create what he calls the "Homogenocene Age." We've been living in one world for hundreds of years, not decades. Readers who like history and biology will find much to enjoy in this book.</p>	
<p><u>It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism</u></p>	<p>Mann, Thomas W. and Norman J. Ornstein</p>	<p>****</p>	<p><u>7/23/12</u></p>	<p><b>Broken.</b> The best preparation for engaged voters ahead of the party conventions and the Fall campaign is to read a sobering book from Thomas W. Mann and Norman J. Ornstein titled <u>It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism</u>. Mann of the Brookings Institution and Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute are scholars who understand our political systems and processes. When they say that the legislative process is broken, we should listen. In the first part of the book, they present a diagnosis of the current dysfunction, and in the second part they propose some ideas on a remedy. Whether you agree or disagree with their assessment and proposals, if you are interested in public affairs, you should listen to their thoughtful analysis.</p>	
<p><u>Go the F**k to Sleep</u></p>	<p>Mansbach, Adam</p>	<p>****</p>	<p><u>6/27/11</u></p>	<p><b>Exasperated.</b> It's the rare parent who has not become exasperated while trying to get a child to sleep. Adam Mansbach captures that experience in his cute new book, <u>Go the F**k to Sleep</u>. I had the pleasure on Father's Day of listening to the <u>audio version</u> of this book which is read by the talented Samuel L. Jackson. That one note of naughtiness,</p>	



				the use of the f-word, is the core of the humor of the book. I suggest listening to the audio version for your own entertainment, and buying the picture book for any new parents who look a bit sleep deprived. They need a good laugh.	
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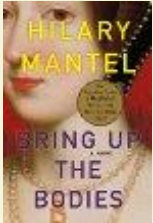
Manliness

Mansfield,  
Harvey C.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



<a href="#"><u>Bring Up the Bodies</u></a>	Mantel, Hilary	*****	<a href="#"><u>7/23/12</u></a>	<p><b>Competence.</b> Most readers who liked reading <i>Wolf Hall</i>, including me, looked forward to Hilary Mantel's continuation of her historical fiction series set in the Tudor period. Her latest novel, <a href="#"><u>Bring Up the Bodies</u></a>, focuses on the last year of Anne Boleyn's life, and continues to feature Thomas Cromwell in all his scheming and impressive competence. I don't know whether the Cromwell in history matches up to Mantel's depiction, but all that he chooses to do and not to do seems to be carefully calculated. My recollection of Cromwell from history fits a narrower profile that Mantel presents. He is both likeable and complex in her version, and I was enthralled with a story I knew on the margins as I quickly read this entertaining novel. Any reader who likes historical fiction or has any interest in England's history will find much to like in this book.</p>	
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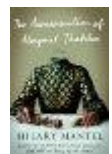
[The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher](#)

Mantel, Hilary

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[11/15/14](#)

**Delightful.** While I loved reading Hilary Mantel's long and intricate historical novels, I didn't know what to expect from a collection of ten short stories titled after one of them, [The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher](#). A few pages in, I had the image: here's Mantel tossing off great writing as a sweet break from her longer writing. I found my eyes bulging during some of these stories, as I chuckled



my way through others. I'm more impressed than ever at her versatility and the breadth of her writing skills. Any fan of short fiction will find a lot to enjoy in this collection, and book lovers who attend author readings will laugh at what that can be like from this author's hilarious point of view.

**Finale.** Spoiler alert: in the third installment of Hilary Mantel's novels featuring Thomas Cromwell, he dies. Readers who loved the first two novels may be pleased that it takes almost eight hundred pages to wrap up his story in the finale titled, The Mirror and the Light. Even for those readers who already know the details of the historical period covered, Mantel finds ways to maintain our interest in whether King Henry will die before Cromwell. Mantel also finds ways to help readers understand both the consistency of the main characters and how they change over time. Cromwell's machinations in service of the king have made him weary. The same ways in which he vanquished adversaries are now used by his enemies to bring Cromwell down. Fans of historical fiction can admire the ways in which Mantel brings the people and time to life as we read all three books. Historians may quibble about her hits and misses, but for readers looking to escape and be entertained, this book will be a pleasure.

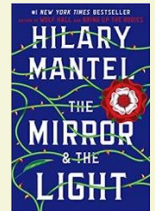
**Machinations.** Readers who enjoy historical fiction will experience delight from Hilary Mantel's finely written novel, Wolf Hall. Almost six hundred pages and packed with a giant cast of characters, the novel is set during the reign of England's King Henry VIII. The protagonist is Thomas Cromwell, who comes across as a more sympathetic and complex character than is described in history. Those readers whose knowledge of Cromwell and Thomas More comes from the Robert Bolt play, A

The Mirror and the Light

Mantel, Hilary

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3/26/20

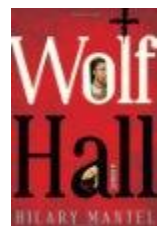


Wolf Hall

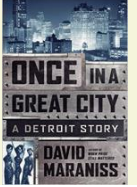
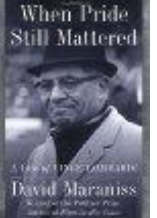
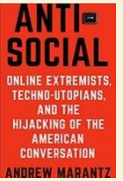

Mantel, Hilary

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4/8/10




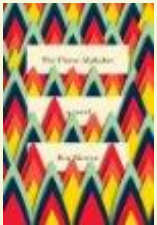
*Man For All Seasons*, will find a darker More and a kinder Cromwell in [Wolf Hall](#). Those readers who enjoy this period of history will find an easier time keeping track of the characters; others may need to keep referring back to the list of characters to keep the players straight. The political machinations are presented with a liveliness that makes an exciting historical time seem contemporary, while remaining true to its period.

<a href="#">Once in a Great City: A Detroit Story</a>	Maraniss, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<a href="#">When Pride Still Mattered</a>	Maraniss, David	***		This life of Vince Lombardi takes the reader back to a time when the world seemed simpler. Enjoyable reading.	
<a href="#">Antisocial: Online Extremists, Techno-Utopians, and the Hijacking of the American Conversation</a>	Marantz, Andrew	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<a href="#">The Other Language</a>	Marciano, Francesca	*****	<a href="#">8/21/14</a>	<b>Transformations.</b> Each of the nine stories in the collection by Francesca Marciano titled, <a href="#">The Other Language</a> , explores some aspect of a transformation. Characters face life changes, are thrust into new places, or find that an object takes on the power of being able to change one's life. Readers who enjoy short stories can parcel these out one at a time and find pleasure from a variety of	

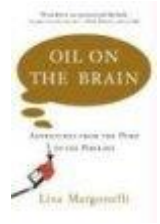
settings and characters, thanks to Marciano's fine writing.

Leaving the Sea	Marcus, Ben	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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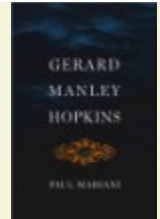
<a href="#"><u>Notes from the Fog</u></a>	Marcus, Ben	*****	<a href="#"><u>3/18/19</u></a>	<p><b>Mordant.</b> In each of the baker's dozen of stories in a collection by Ben Marcus titled, <a href="#"><u>Notes from the Fog</u></a>, readers are likely to wince or laugh and experience a focused barb at contemporary life. Few readers will finish these stories feeling that they've read it all before. Marcus' originality comes across as fresh and alert to the consequences of trends in modern life. Fans of literary fiction who appreciate fine writing are those readers most likely to appreciate these short stories.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>The Flame Alphabet</u></a>	Marcus, Ben	*****	<a href="#"><u>4/19/12</u></a>	<p><b>Toxic.</b> For some "meat and potatoes" readers, reading a literary novel can be like being told to eat one's vegetables because they're good for you. The taste is often less appealing, especially when plot can be confusing or absent, or the subject matter is depressing. The latest novel from Ben Marcus, <a href="#"><u>The Flame Alphabet</u></a>, may be an acquired taste for most readers. This is a dystopic novel in which the speech of children causes disease, while the reaction of parents is to continue to love and be drawn to the suffering from this toxicity. Our desire for community comes through in the odd way in which religious practice is conducted. You may not read a stranger novel this year if you approach this one. Sometimes, it's worth the stretch to explore something imaginative and unusual. For some readers, this novel is worth the stretch.</p>	
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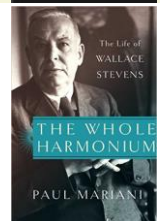
Oil on the Brain Margonelli, Lisa Unread Shelf of Ennui 2007



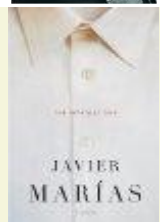
Gerard Manley Hopkins: A Life Mariani, Paul Unread Shelf of Ennui 2010



The Whole Harmonium: The Life of Wallace Stevens Mariani, Paul Unread Shelf of Ennui 2017.



The Infatuations Marias, Javier Unread Shelf of Ennui 2014.



The Big Questions: How Philosophy Can Change Your Life Marinoff, Lou Unread Shelf of Ennui 2004



The Winter Girl

Marinovich, Matt

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5/13/16

**Twisted.** Were he alive, Alfred Hitchcock would make a movie of Matt Marinovich's novel, The Winter Girl, with glee. It's a great story, truly scary, and full of plot twists that entertain. Packed with strained relationships, the novel maintains tension from beginning to end, just what most readers want from a thriller. I found myself visualizing many



				scenes as I read, and even sensing creepy background music at the right places. Readers who like scary thrillers are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.	
<a href="#">Ohio</a>	Markley, Stephen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
The Psycho Ex Game	Markoe, Merrill	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<a href="#">No One Would Listen: A True Financial Thriller</a>	Markopolos, Harry	***	<a href="#">10/8/11</a>	<p><b>Persistence.</b> Six or seven times over the past eighteen months, I picked up and put down Harry Markopolos' book about Bernie Madoff, <a href="#">No One Would Listen</a>. I'd get interested quickly, then get bored quickly. I found his communication skills to be weak, and I began to understand at least one reason why the SEC didn't follow up: he seemed like a crank. As everyone knows, he was right, and the whistle he tried to blow wasn't heeded. My persistence, and his, endured to a resolution. I'm glad I read his account of what happened. I just wish he had made it more engaging. Readers with more patience than me are likely to enjoy this book, and anyone interested in finance and the Madoff scheme will find something of interest in this book.</p>	
<a href="#">Fathers and Daughters</a>	Markovits, Benjamin	****	<a href="#">Mar 06</a>	<p><b>Seasons.</b> Four connected novellas named for the seasons, with characters seen from different points of view. Fine literary fiction full of emotional depth and the bonds of relationships.</p>	

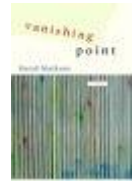


The Vanishing  
Point

Markson, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



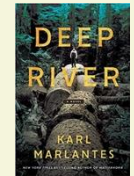
Deep River

Marlantes, Karl

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2/7/20

**Saga.** Don't look past Karl Marlantes' novel titled, Deep River, because of the size. He needs all seven hundred pages to pull us into the lives of determined people, living in rough places, working hard, and building families and communities. Three siblings leave Finland and settle in southern Washington state at the end of the nineteenth century. Marlantes describes logging, salmon fishing, and conflict between workers and owners. We spend decades with these siblings and a growing cast of characters facing a range of life events and challenges that propel the narrative. Fans of historical fiction that's well-written are those readers most likely to enjoy this moving American story.



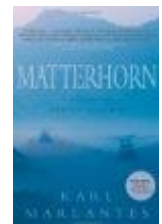
Matterhorn: A  
Novel of the  
Vietnam War

Marlantes, Karl

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6/2/10

**Shadows.** Over Memorial Day weekend, I had the honor and pleasure of reading Karl Marlantes debut novel, Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War. Weighing in at almost two pounds and just under 600 pages, this is a finely written novel that seemed to cover with great respect and care so many key components of that war: brave soldiers performing heroically in bad situations; the pointlessness and futility of why we were there and what we were doing; the foibles of leadership and the relentless politics. Protagonist Lieutenant Waino Mellas becomes a memorable and complex character on these pages, and by the time I turned the last page, I wanted the story to keep going. The memories of the Marines of Bravo Company, especially those killed in battle, remained with me like shadows after I finished the book. Any veteran and anyone



who wants a glimpse of what Vietnam was like will likely find this book well worth reading.

**Warriors.** Karl Marlantes answers a question the majority of Americans cannot answer because of our lack of experience. In his book, What It Is Like To Go To War, Marlantes uses his own experience in Vietnam to try to explain with honesty and openness what war was like. Those who have been in war may find that Marlantes speaks for them or describes something quite different from their own experience. Through fine writing, Marlantes explores the psychological intensity of the experience of war, both at the time and for long afterward. He examines spirituality and the process of reflection about what took place in shadow.



What It Is Like To Go To War

Marlantes, Karl

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11/22/11

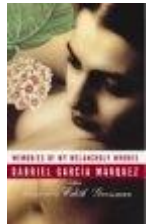
Memories of My Melancholy Whores

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia

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Jan 06

**Romance.** After giving himself the gift of a 14 year old virgin prostitute for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, the protagonist remembers scores of past prostitutes and continues his search for love.



Head of State

Marr, Andrew

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



A Constellation of Vital Phenomena

Marra, Anthony

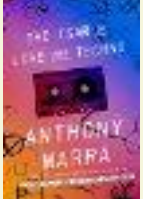
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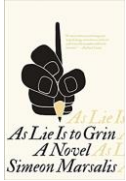
12/12/13

**Humanity.** Prepare yourself to be disoriented if you decide to read Anthony Marra's finely written debut novel, A Constellation of Vital Phenomena. The beginning of each chapter provides an excellent orientation in time by highlighting the year during which a chapter's narrative took place. The overall setting is Chechnya during war. Each chapter reveals something new about the characters and their struggles. Marra captures the horrors and injustice of war, while revealing the ways in which our humanity can survive and thrive. I found myself

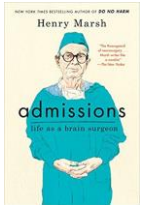


reading this novel quickly, trying to pay attention to time periods so I could piece things together. Marra's fine prose redeems the structure of the novel, and many critics have considered this among the best books of the year.

<a href="#"><u>The Tsar of Love and Techno</u></a>	Marra, Anthony	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
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<a href="#"><u>As Lie Is to Grin</u></a>	Marsalis, Simeon	*****	<a href="#"><u>12/19/17</u></a>	<p><b>Matriculation.</b> One of the best debut novels I've read in a long time is the compact book by Simeon Marsalis titled, <a href="#"><u>As Lie Is to Grin</u></a>. The narrator and protagonist, David, arrives at college in Vermont doing what all college students eventually do while matriculating: finding answers to important questions. Race and class and fitting in are all in play, with David's confusion in the present trying to make sense of the past. Marsalis places David as an African American in a predominantly white college. Then he explores the backstory from the prior year that made sense of what led David to Vermont. The prose is finely written, and explores complex ideas with great skill.</p>	
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Strange Glory: A Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer	Marsh, Charles	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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<a href="#"><u>Admissions: Life as a Brain Surgeon</u></a>	Marsh, Henry	*****	<a href="#"><u>12/17/18</u></a>	<p><b>Humanity.</b> Surgeons are people, too. In his memoir titled, <a href="#"><u>Admissions: Life as a Brain Surgeon</u></a>, brain surgeon Henry Marsh reflects on his life and work with candor and a dose of humility. He talks about his mistakes, and the consequences of those errors on his patients. Beyond his work in England, Marsh describes different conditions during pro bono work in Ukraine and Nepal. His frustrations</p>	
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about working in Ukraine come across with clarity and compassion: caught between the need to do the work while knowing the work could be done better. I enjoyed reading his candid reflections about life and work.

**Candid.** One of the liveliest non-fiction books I've read this year is Henry Marsh's [Do No Harm: Stories of Life, Death and Brain Surgery](#). Marsh is a neurosurgeon in England, and he uses this book to draw readers into the stories of patients, his work as a brain surgeon, and the life and death consequences of his work. I was impressed by the candid way in which he admits to mistakes. His fights with managers and bureaucracy are often humorous. Most of all this is a delightful exploration of our human life in all its wonder. I was delighted from beginning to end.

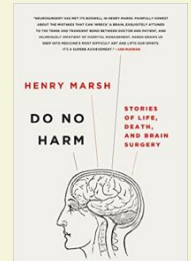
**Scandal.** While I read Frédéric Martel's almost six-hundred-page book titled, [In the Closet of the Vatican: Power, Homosexuality, Hypocrisy](#), I found myself wondering why people were willing to talk to him and reveal the many examples of scandal and misbehavior that he reveals about the Catholic clergy. For whatever reason, they did as he conducted loads of interviews for this book over a long period of time and chronicles a story that most readers will find both sad and scandalous. I kept thinking about the reality that humans do stupid stuff and that goodness and evil exist side by side within each of us. After a while, though, I found the hypocrisy overwhelming, so I paced myself over several weeks while I read this book. Many readers will finish the book anxious for dramatic reform in the Catholic church and sad that such reform is highly unlikely during our lifetime.

[Do No Harm: Stories of Life, Death, and Brain Surgery](#)

Marsh, Henry

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[7/24/15](#)

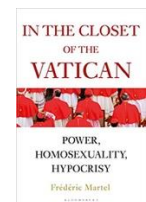


[In the Closet of the Vatican: Power, Homosexuality, Hypocrisy](#)

Martel, Frédéric

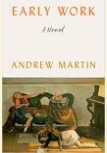
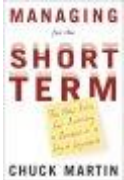
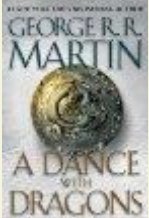
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[10/15/19](#)



<a href="#"><u>Beatrice and Virgil</u></a>	Martel, Yann	****	<a href="#"><u>5/15/10</u></a>	<p><b>Horrors.</b> If you liked reading Yann Martel's <i>Life of Pi</i>, don't pick up his new novel, <a href="#"><u>Beatrice and Virgil</u></a> until you understand how different it is. The one element these novels share is the use of animals as characters. The subject of the new novel is the holocaust, and the horrors abound throughout these pages. A writer is experiencing a bloc and becomes interested in a play that a taxidermist is writing. The violence becomes numbing, and by the end of the novel, the extreme brutality becomes horrible through the description of games. This is a work of art about a difficult subject and is written in ways that can lead a reader to revulsion. That can be a strength of art, or an indication that the work is lousy. Readers are likely to love or hate this novel. I think it is finely written, but caution readers to think twice before experiencing the horror on these pages.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Life of Pi</u></a>	Martel, Yann	***	<a href="#"><u>Jul 02</u></a>	<p>A memorable, well-told, unforgettable, unbelievable story of the 200 + day Pacific voyage of a shipwrecked Indian teenager and a Royal Bengal tiger.</p>	
The Facts Behind the Helsinki Roccamatios	Martel, Yann	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<a href="#"><u>The High Mountains of Portugal</u></a>	Martel, Yann	****	<a href="#"><u>6/24/16</u></a>	<p><b>Journey.</b> Ours is a period of time during which the destination reached quickly becomes more typical than the joy of a meandering journey. In a novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The High Mountains of Portugal</u></a>, suited for long TSA lines and congested traffic, Yann Martel offers ideas on our search for meaning, the importance of journey, and our relationships with other animals and with the natural world. Structured as three linked stories, the novel offers</p>	

patient readers finely written prose and a very slow journey from beginning to end. Along the way there are lots of distractions and digressions, and it is in those that key ideas are discovered. Slowing down during the Summer can offer enrichment for many busy people. Consider reading this novel as part of your process of slowing down on your own journey.

<a href="#">Early Work</a>	Martin, Andrew	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<a href="#">Managing for the Short Term: The New Rules for Running a Business in a Day-to-Day World</a>	Martin, Chuck	*	<a href="#">Aug 02</a>	Useless book that parrots e-mail responses by a varying group of executives providing advice that can't be implemented.	
<a href="#">A Dance with Dragons</a>	Martin, George R.R.	***	<a href="#">9/9/11</a>	<b>Extravagant.</b> Does George R.R. Martin get paid by the word? Book five of the Song of Fire and Ice series titled, <a href="#">A Dance with Dragons</a> , comes in at over a thousand pages. Considering that this book was meant to extend the stories of half the characters in book four that he left dangling in that large book, the volume seems excessive, and would benefit from editing. The popularity of the <i>Game of Thrones</i> television adaptation will bring Martin new readers, but I expect those who enjoy the visual grandness of this fantasy world will become tired by the prose and the ways in which Martin leaves one storyline and starts up another. Readers with patience and who are tolerant of wordiness will find extravagant and imaginative stories on these pages. Those who find value in more pages per dollar spent will find such value here. Most readers will bore easily and become confused by all the	



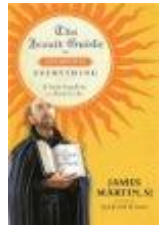
				<p>characters and their backstories. Fans will also be bored by the wasted paragraphs retelling the backstories that loyal readers may know as well as the author. All that said, this is a genre with little of decent writing to entertain readers, and for those who like fantasy tales, there's much to enjoy here, very much.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Fire and Blood</u></a>	Martin, George R.R.	****	<a href="#"><u>1/22/19</u></a>	<p><b>Prequel.</b> Please don't quiz me to differentiate all the characters and dragons in the Game of Thrones prequel by George R.R. Martin, a novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Fire and Blood</u></a>. Westeros fans have been pressing Martin for the next installment and this 700-page diversion is likely to meet with mixed reviews. Structured as a history, I think it is also book one of another series. The cult of Martin wants him to write faster, and I expect even he has some trouble keeping all the characters straight. For readers who like the world of Westeros, here's another hefty installment with intrigue, treachery, battles and dragons. I read it in Chicago waiting for Winter to come and was well entertained.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life</u></a>	Martin, James	***	<a href="#"><u>11/22/11</u></a>	<p><b>Contagious.</b> We want to be around joyful people. James Martin is a Jesuit priest, a prolific writer and an editor at <i>America</i> magazine. His latest book, <a href="#"><u>Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life</u></a>, explores the many ways in which spirituality becomes evident through joy, humor and laughter. He explores each of those areas with wit and self-deprecating stories. The result is an entertaining book that leads to laughter as well as to reflection. I found myself passing along at least two or three anecdotes from this book. Readers who like spiritual themes and humor are those most likely to enjoy this book.</p>	

The Jesuit  
Guide to  
(Almost)  
Everything: A  
Spirituality for  
Real Life

Martin, James

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2011



[Greenspan: The Man Behind Money](#)

Martin, Justin

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[01/01](#)

Somewhat interesting to find out about Greenspan the man and his formative relationships, especially with his mother and with Ayn Rand. [Read first chapter.](#) [Read longer review.](#)



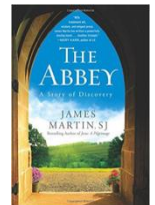
[The Abbey: A Story of Discovery](#)

Martin, S.J.,  
James

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[11/20/15](#)

**Direction.** James Martin is a Jesuit priest whose books about spiritual topics have been best sellers. His debut novel titled, [The Abbey](#), features three main characters: a priest who is an abbot, a divorced single mom grieving the death of her son, and her tenant, an architect who works as a handyman at the abbey. Martin presents their life struggles with compassion, and uses his knowledge of spiritual direction to help guide them all toward hope and healing. Over the course of the 200 pages of this novel, Martin develops just enough about the three main characters to have readers recognize them as fully formed individuals, and offers enough plot momentum to tell a complete story. I was mildly entertained by the novel and think that any reader with an interest in spirituality will find something of interest in this novel.

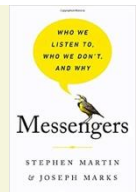


[Messengers: Who We Listen To, Who We Don't and Why](#)

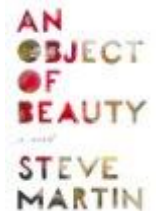
Martin, Stephen  
and Joseph  
Marks

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



**Amorality.** Steve Martin's new novel, [An Object of Beauty](#), presents a cast of characters in the art world, most of whom will do or say whatever is necessary to get what they want. Martin does a fine job in presenting unappealing characters and immoral behavior in ways that keep readers interested and engaged. His own experience as an art collector provides him with a perspective on the art world that helped this novel present a fully formed world. Martin develops the characters well, immerses readers into the art world, and presents perspective and insight into human behavior. Readers who like character-driven fiction are most likely to enjoy this novel, whether one likes the individual characters or not.



[An Object of Beauty](#)

Martin, Steve

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[1/15/11](#)

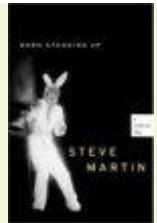
[Born Standing Up: A Comic's Life](#)

Martin, Steve

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[Jan 08](#)

**Resolute.** Memoir describes how Martin was resolute in his early years to learn to become a performer, and how hard he worked to acquire and develop skills.



[The Pleasure of My Company](#)

Martin, Steve

\*\*

[Nov 03](#)

**Neurotic.** Memorable, obsessive-compulsive narrator unveils Everyman beneath the disorder. Creative and interesting, but not as well written as [Shopgirl](#).



[The Ten, Make That Nine, Habits of Very Organized People. Make That Ten.: The Tweets of Steve Martin](#)

Martin, Steve

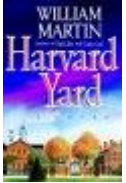
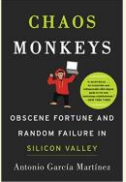
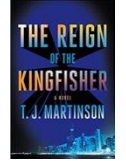
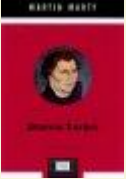


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[5/5/12](#)

**Amusing.** Steve Martin's latest book, [The Ten, Make That Nine, Habits of Very Organized People. Make That Ten.: The Tweets of Steve Martin](#), may appeal to his most ardent fans. I found the book very quick to read, and a few selected tweets were amusing. Absent the physicality of his visual humor, and without the skill he's shown in writing fiction, I found this book to be exactly what it purports to be: a collection of tweets. Most readers should take a pass, or page through before buying. Readers who like Martin and are willing to shell out



				<p>a few bucks for some humor are those most likely to enjoy this short book.</p> <p><b>Adrift.</b> Patient readers who enjoy historical fiction and who can tolerate a disjointed narrative are those most likely to enjoy reading Valerie Martin's novel, <u>The Ghost of the Mary Celeste</u>. The <i>Mary Celeste</i> was a ship found adrift and seaworthy in the Atlantic in 1872 with no crew or passengers on board and one lifeboat missing. Martin takes that true event, and offers this novel as an exploration of what happened. Along the way, she introduces the spiritualism movement of that time as well as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who wrote a fictional piece about the <i>Mary Celeste</i> himself in 1884, and became involved with spiritualism in the 1920s. Martin riffs on all these threads in the novel, and creates the atmosphere of the time with her descriptive prose. My patience was strained often while I read this novel, and by the end was pleased only that I finished.</p>	
<u>The Ghost of the Mary Celeste</u>	Martin, Valerie	***	<u>9/26/14</u>		
<u>Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir</u>	Martin, Wednesday	****	<u>1/19/16</u>	<p><b>Mothers.</b> A memoir presents readers with some particular challenges. Is the writer an individual whose reflections about life are likely to interest me? Is the writing of such good quality that I will be delighted? Is this a life so similar to or so different from mine that I will be intrigued? Before a reader selects Wednesday Martin's book titled, <u>Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir</u>, consider those questions. Martin writes about her experience as an outsider trying to belong to an insular community on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. She uses her background in anthropology to present the memoir as if she were reporting on her fieldwork as a participant-observer in a different culture. At times her writing is funny and at other times it can become a bit tedious. Readers who have read anthropological field reports will find special</p>	

				delight in those inclusions in this book. For me, the memoir turned my heart toward Martin when she presented a personal tragic story and how that brought out the best in the members of the community.	
Harvard Yard	Martin, William	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<a href="#"><u>Chaos Monkeys: Obscene Fortune and Random Failure in Silicon Valley</u></a>	Martinez, Antonio Garcia	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<a href="#"><u>The Reign of the Kingfisher</u></a>	Martinson, T.J.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Martin Luther	Marty, Martin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
Him Her Him Again The End of Him	Marx, Patricia	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<a href="#"><u>Let's Be Less Stupid: An Attempt to Maintain My Mental Faculties</u></a>	Marx, Patricia	****	<a href="#"><u>10/15/15</u></a>	<b>Zany.</b> I enjoy reading Patty Marx in <i>The New Yorker</i> , so when I saw her book titled, <a href="#"><u>Let's Be Less Stupid: An Attempt to Maintain My Mental Faculties</u></a> , I knew I had to read it. Neuroscience meets humor and I would try to describe what I read in this book, but since I forget when I read it	

or what it said, you're on your own with this one. I've never bothered doing Sudoku puzzles or the crossword in the paper, and since after reading the book, I haven't started, that must mean neuroscience debunks the value of those things to maintain brain health. Or maybe I forgot to start doing them. Anyway, if you're a reader who can laugh at the aging process into which some of us go kicking and screaming while forgetting the alternative, pick up this book for a few good laughs. Happiness must increase longevity, right?

**Zany.** Prepare for pleasure, even laughter, when you read Patricia Marx' zany novel, [Starting from Happy](#). All relationships are quirky, but Imogene and Wally are two of the oddest characters readers are likely to encounter, and enjoy getting to know. The structure of the novel itself is funny: short chapters, as brief as a single word, including author commentary. Her experience at *Saturday Night Live* and *The New Yorker* comes through with skit-like narrative and perfectly chosen words. Read any sample, and if you like it, you're likely to enjoy the whole thing.



[Starting from Happy](#)

Marx, Patricia

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[8/23/11](#)

[Why Don't You Write My Eulogy Now So I Can Correct It?: A Mother's Suggestions](#)

Marx, Patricia and Roz Chast

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[5/9/19](#)

**Gift.** Sample a page or two of the book titled, [Why Don't You Write My Eulogy Now So I Can Correct It?: A Mother's Suggestions](#), and you'll know whether this is the right gift for any mother in your life. Patricia Marx's text presents things her mother has said over the years, and cartoonist Roz Chast provides terrific illustrations. It's clear that both women present this short book out of love for their mothers. Whether it resonates with you or the mother in your life depends on the nature of your relationship and how much humor has been in your family dynamics.





Snow White and  
Russian Red

Maslowska,  
Dorota

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



The Art of the  
Steal: Inside the  
Sotheby's-  
Christie's  
Auction House  
Scandal

Mason,  
Christopher

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



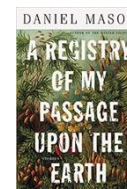
[A Registry of My  
Passage Upon  
the Earth](#)

Mason, Daniel

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[11/9/20](#)

**Survival.** There are nine well-crafted short stories in the collection by Daniel Mason titled, [A Registry of My Passage Upon the Earth](#). Each story involves characters who find ways to survive in response to struggles. Mason excels at revealing a character's state of mind that provides the roadmap to satisfying our curiosity about the lives of others. Mason takes readers to time periods and places that provide a vivid backdrop for his exploration of the core of what it takes for each of us to survive and thrive.



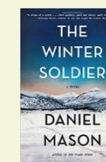
[The Winter  
Soldier](#)

Mason, Daniel

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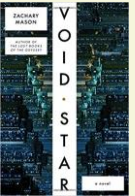
[6/10/19](#)

**Atmospheric.** Readers who enjoy descriptive historical fiction are those most likely to enjoy Daniel Mason's novel titled, [The Winter Soldier](#). Set during World War I in Austria and Poland, the novel tells a story of war and medicine. The protagonist is a twenty-two-year-old medical student named Lucius Krzelewski, whose limited training has not prepared him for the field medicine he is called on to practice. Thanks to the expertise of Sister Margarete at the field hospital to which he is assigned, Lucius learns quickly how to care for wounded soldiers. Mason's finely written prose makes every setting atmospheric, appropriate to the time and place described. Mason presents the



				condition of PTSD with insight and wisdom. Mason's prose brings beauty to grim settings.	
Ludlow	Mason, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<a href="#">Uncivil Agreement: How Politics Became Our Identity</a>	Mason, Lilliana	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<a href="#">Clear Bright Future</a>	Mason, Paul	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<a href="#">History of a Pleasure Seeker</a>	Mason, Richard	***	<a href="#">3/27/12</a>	<b>Yield.</b> When Piet Barol, the protagonist of Richard Mason's novel, <a href="#">History of a Pleasure Seeker</a> , finds himself offered the chance to indulge in any form of pleasure, he yields to the opportunity with delight and enthusiasm. Set mostly in Amsterdam in 1907, Barol is hired as a tutor to the son of a wealthy hotelier. The house is packed with beautiful objects and people, the food and service outstanding. Barol is handsome, talented and charming, and uses skills and wits to achieve what he desires. Readers who like period novels and atmospheric sensuality are those most likely to enjoy this novel.	
<a href="#">Metamorphica</a>	Mason, Zachary	****	<a href="#">12/17/18</a>	<b>Ovid.</b> Having riffed on Greek classics in an earlier novel, Zachary Mason turns to the myths from Ovid in a novel titled, <a href="#">Metamorphica</a> . His take on Ovid's classic stories makes for lively reading, and some of the stories are presented in their violent starkness. Mason even adds Ovid as a character to open and close the novel. Mason's take on these stories	

focuses on the fruitless and meaningless search for meaning in life. At the end, there is nothing. Perhaps because of that perspective, the familiar classical characters come across as hollow. For those readers who find our current times bleak, Mason echoes an emptiness from the past in this book, and he may speak, if not comfort, consistency to those readers.

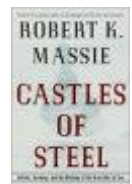
<a href="#">Void Star</a>	Mason, Zachary	****	<a href="#">10/17/18</a>	<p><b>Language.</b> I don't read much science fiction because more often than not, I find the prose unbearable. Once I started reading Zachary Mason's novel titled, <a href="#">Void Star</a>, I became enchanted by the prose, the story and the characters. Mason has called this book literary fiction, and I agree. Access to memories and the exchange of memories are key elements in the novel and provide a way for connections with humans and machines. Protagonist Irina performs a key role in making those connections effective. There's a search for immortality underway by her boss, James Cromwell. Rich are poor are dramatically divided in this society, set about one hundred years in the future. Kern is a character less connected to technology and as complex and interesting as all the others. I was entertained more than I expected by this well-written novel and recommend it to both those readers who enjoy literary fiction and those who like science fiction.</p>	
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Castles of Steel:  
Britain,  
Germany and  
the Winning of  
the Great War at  
Sea

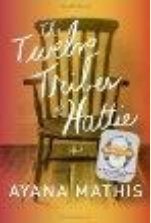
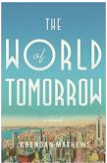
Massie, Robert  
K.

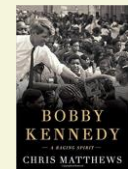



Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004




<u>Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman</u>	Massie, Robert K.	****	<u>1/5/12</u>	<b>Stupendous.</b> Octogenarian Robert K. Massie has condensed the scale of his broad and deep knowledge of this subject into 650 pages of lively reading titled, <u>Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman</u> . Massie tells the story of her life, her struggles and her great successes with a level of detail and insight that will appeal to those readers of biography who crave for good stories and wise, critical examination. My knowledge of Catherine's life was sketchy, so I was enthralled by Massie's depiction of this enlightened leader's prudence and risk taking. All readers will come away from this book with many reasons why she was a great leader.	
In the Country of Men	Matar, Hisham	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
My Life in CIA: A Chronicle of 1973	Mathews, Harry	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>And Their Children After Them</u>	Mathieu, Nicolas	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	

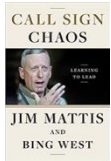
<a href="#"><u>The Twelve Tribes of Hattie</u></a>	Mathis, Ayana	****	<div> <div>2/4/13</div> <div> <p><b>Character.</b> Readers who are comfortable with fiction that weaves together episodes are those most likely to enjoy the debut novel from Ayana Mathis titled, <a href="#"><u>The Twelve Tribes of Hattie</u></a>. Mathis uses the lives of protagonist Hattie and her children to describe the sweep of the Great Migration. Set mostly in Georgia and Philadelphia, between the 1920s and 1980s, Mathis presents key events in the lives of Hattie and her children to reveal this family across generations. Their struggles and joys engaged me from beginning to end. Mathis could have added hundreds of pages to present these lives in full. Instead, she used great efficiency to develop these characters so well in a finely written 250 page novel.</p> </div> </div>	
<a href="#"><u>The World of Tomorrow</u></a>	Matthews, Brendan	*****	<div> <div>9/26/17</div> <div> <p><b>Brothers.</b> The action in Brendan Matthews debut novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The World of Tomorrow</u></a>, unfolds over one week in New York City in 1939. I often become impatient with novels over three hundred pages or so, and Matthews never once tested that patience as he kept me captivated for almost six hundred pages. Two brothers flee Ireland with stolen IRA funds, assume fake identities, and arrive in New York City spending the loot lavishly. Their brother, a talented jazz musician, was already in New York. Matthews led me to care deeply about these well-developed characters and a larger interesting cast, while he poked into issues of family relationships, race relations, political power, crime and the shadow of Hitler. The prose is finely written, the story captivating and the underlying human behavior resonant. This is one of the best debut novels I've read in years.</p> </div> </div>	

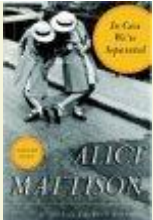
<a href="#"><u>Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit</u></a>	Matthews, Chris	*****	<a href="#"><u>1/23/18</u></a>	<p><b>Connected.</b> Political commentator Chris Matthews has written a love song about the life and times of Bobby Kennedy titled, <a href="#"><u>Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit</u></a>. We know how Kennedy's life was cut short in 1968, and Matthews places that tragedy in the context of the unrealized promise of the Kennedy brother who connected best with regular people. Fifty years later, Matthews reminds readers interested in politics of the spirit of another time, through a leader who was fighting for a vision of the United States that has yet to be realized, leaving some readers mourning about what might have been.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Palace of Treason</u></a>	Matthews, Jason	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
Red Sparrow	Matthews, Jason	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<a href="#"><u>The Kremlin's Candidate</u></a>	Matthews, Jason	*****	<a href="#"><u>3/9/18</u></a>	<p><b>Recipes.</b> Russian interference in the United States has become a regular headline story. In the finale of the Red Sparrow Trilogy, a novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Kremlin's Candidate</u></a>, author Jason Matthews focuses on that interference. Putin orders the murder of the CIA chief to set the stage for his replacement with a Russian mole. Reprised characters Dominika Egorova, the Russian spy secretly working for the US, and her lover, CIA agent Nate Nash, are placed in peril to prevent the mole from becoming the head of the CIA. Fans of spy thrillers are those readers most likely to enjoy</p>	

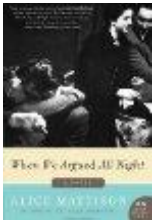


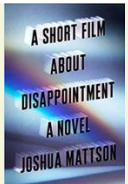
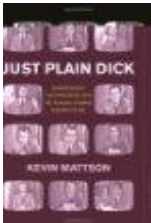

this novel. I especially enjoyed all the references to food throughout the book, and the special reward: recipes for many of the dishes eaten. *Bon appétit*.

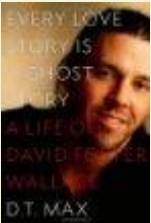
In Paradise	Matthiessen, Peter	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
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<u>Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead</u>	Mattis, Jim and Bing West	*****	<u>2/7/20</u>	<p><b>Instructive.</b> Former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis has too much class to write a tell-all book about his time in the Trump Administration, one of the many lessons he offers in his book titled, <u>Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead</u>. Mattis is a thoughtful reader and a lifelong learner. He packs this book with stories from his own life and insights that can apply to all readers. Mattis tells us of his childhood and the journey in the Marines to become a four-star general. Many of his lessons were hard won, and become instructive for all of us, especially those in leadership roles.</p>	
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In Case We're Separated	Mattison, Alice	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
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When We Argued All Night	Mattison, Alice	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
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<a href="#"><u>A Short Film About Disappointment</u></a>	Mattson, Joshua	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<a href="#"><u>Just Plain Dick: Richard Nixon's Checkers Speech and the "Rocking, Socking" Election of 1952</u></a>	Mattson, Kevin	***	<a href="#"><u>2/22/13</u></a>	<p><b>Surface.</b> Richard Nixon was a fascinating and complex person, and reading about him can be interesting whether you supported his politics or not. Kevin Mattson's book, <a href="#"><u>Just Plain Dick: Richard Nixon's Checkers Speech and the "Rocking, Socking" Election of 1952</u></a>, presents a glimpse into one pivotal time period in Nixon's life, and through that key time, allows readers to think about Nixon in what might be new ways. I've read a lot about Nixon, and found this short book to skim the surface and not quite delve into the complexity of the character and personality. Most general readers will find this book quick to read and for those less familiar with the Checkers speech and the campaign of 1952, there's a cogent presentation of this time and selected key events.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Costalegre</u></a>	Maum, Courtney	****	<a href="#"><u>8/15/19</u></a>	<p><b>Refuge.</b> Courtney Maum's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Costalegre</u></a>, assembles many elements inside a compact work. War is looming in Europe in 1937 and wealthy art patron Leonora Calaway is arranging for artists and her art to be transported to Mexico where she has a resort named, <i>Costalegre</i>. Almost as an afterthought, she pulls her fifteen-year-old daughter, Lara, out of school to join the eclectic group in their refuge in Mexico. It's Lara's point of view that controls the narrative, and she so longs for attention from her mother that readers can feel her anguish. Maum breaks tension with humor and presents the lives of artists with vivid imagery. Maum presents privilege and longing in a lush setting and she writes about losing and finding</p>	

				<p>ourselves as we live in this world of conflict, anxiety and uncertainty.</p> <p><b>Fidelity.</b> Readers who enjoy romantic comedy will find a lot to enjoy from Courtney Maum's debut novel, <u><a href="#">I Am Having So Much Fun Here Without You</a></u>. Set mostly in Paris, this novel presents the relationship between British artist Richard Haddon and his wife, Anne-Lure, a lawyer. Anne-Lure's reaction to her discovery of Richard's infidelity sets the plot in motion. Maum's expert development of this couple and a broad cast of characters presents them all as people we recognize and understand. Her descriptions of Paris, Brittany and parts of England were precise and added to my enjoyment of the novel. I caught myself booing and cheering as the plot progressed.</p>	
<u><a href="#">I Am Having So Much Fun Here Without You</a></u>	Maum, Courtney	*****	<u><a href="#">7/28/14</a></u>		
<u><a href="#">Every Love Story Is a Ghost Story: A Life of David Foster Wallace</a></u>	Max, D.T.	*****	<u><a href="#">4/20/13</a></u>	<p><b>Difficult.</b> If you've ever felt envious of a talented genius, reading D.T. Max's biography of David Foster Wallace titled, <u><a href="#">Every Love Story Is a Ghost Story</a></u>, should stop that from happening again. From childhood until his death by suicide at age 46, Wallace suffered from severe depression, and he was often a difficult person to be with. An addict, a perfectionist and a hard working writer and teacher, Wallace found some things came to him easily, and others were elusive. He found bliss in writing, until he didn't. He struggled with personal relationships, and sponsored many other addicts in recovery. I thought Max presented this complicated life with as much clarity as a biographer could provide, and with compassion and insight into mental illness. Readers who like to know about the lives of authors are those most likely to enjoy reading this biography.</p>	

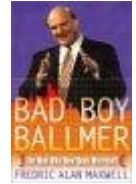
Bad Boy  
Ballmer: The  
Man Who Rules  
Microsoft

Maxwell,  
Frederic Alan

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Feb 03

**Madman.** Many facets of the journey of Steve Ballmer from suburban Detroit to a partnership with Bill Gates that changed the world.



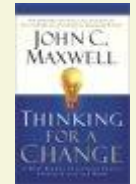
Thinking for a  
Change: 11 Ways  
Highly  
Successful  
People  
Approach Life  
and Work

Maxwell, John C.

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May 03

**Pastoral.** Hundreds of quotes tied together by stories and upbeat, positive thoughts. Ideal for self-help fans; shallow for most of us.



The Blackhouse

May, Peter

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.

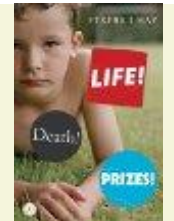


Life! Death!  
Prizes!

May, Stephen

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



Wake Up Happy  
Every Day

May, Stephen

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



Firm  
Commitment:  
Why the  
corporation is  
failing us and  
how to restore  
trust in it

Mayer, Colin

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



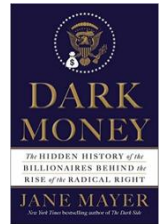
Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right

Mayer, Jane

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2/25/16

**Network.** A small group of very wealthy Americans has been working systematically to transform our politics to align with their interests. In her finely written book titled, Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right, Jane Mayer describes how patient plutocrats have framed public opinions and have ensured the election of individuals in local and national elections. Don't think for a minute that Jeb Bush's spending for poor results in the latest Presidential campaign proves that money doesn't make a difference. The network led by the Koch brothers preceded the current cycle and is likely to have skipped Jeb in this primary. They gather large amounts of money and use it in myriad ways to influence work at universities, create what appear to be grass roots organizations, and use every means they can think of to buy the government that will be aligned with their interests. Any citizen interested in the topic of money in politics will be enlightened by this finely written book.



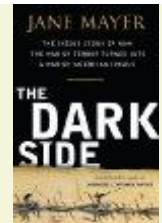
The Dark Side

Mayer, Jane

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Dec 08

**Decisions.** A shocking and disturbing presentation of many of the actions and decisions made by the Bush administration in fighting the war on terror.



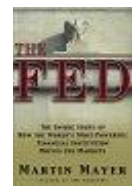
The Fed: The Inside Story of How the World's Most Powerful Financial Institution Drives the Markets

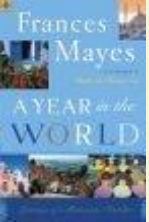


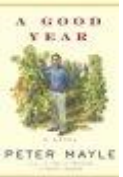
Mayer, Martin

DNR

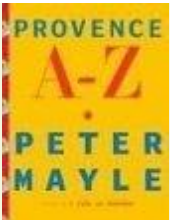
07/01


Annoying, irritating and sloppy bon mots. Take a pass.

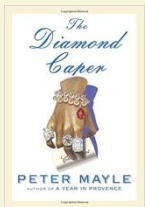


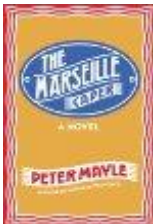
<a href="#"><u>A Year in the World</u></a>	Mayes, Frances	**	<a href="#"><u>Sept 06</u></a>	<p><b>Wandering.</b> Tuscany left temporarily behind for brief wanderings, Mayes becomes immersed in other places, and gets irritated by tourists. Some pleasure here for those who like reading about travel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Every Day in Tuscany: Seasons of an Italian Life</u></a>	Mayes, Frances	***	<a href="#"><u>4/8/10</u></a>	<p><b>Salivate.</b> One of the reasons for reading memoirs is to acquire a taste for the life of another person, and reflect on the similarities and differences to our own life. From her first memoir, <i>Under the Tuscan Sun</i>, Frances Mayes gave readers a glimpse of restoring an old house in Italy. Twenty years later the house, Bramasole, still needs work, and in her new memoir, <a href="#"><u>Every Day in Tuscany</u></a>, Mayes lets readers join her life at home and in travels around Italy. I found my mouth watering at the descriptions of food and meals, and I read with enthusiasm the recipes she includes on these pages. The book shines with finely written description of a lifestyle: the people, the meals, the places, and the flow of the seasons of the year. I could almost smell and taste as I turned these pages. Any reader who enjoys relaxed meandering will find pleasure reading this memoir.</p>	
The Undertaker's Daughter	Mayfield, Kate	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
A Good Year	Mayle, Peter	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	



Provence A-Z	Mayle, Peter	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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<a href="#"><u>The Corsican Caper</u></a>	Mayle, Peter	****	<a href="#"><u>6/18/14</u></a>	<p><b>Thugs.</b> The latest crime novel by Peter Mayle to feature protagonist Sam Levitt is titled, <a href="#"><u>The Corsican Caper</u></a>. A wealthy Russian thug, Oleg Vronsky, covets the beautiful home of Sam's billionaire friend Francis Reboul, and offers a premium price to have it for himself. When Reboul refuses, Vronsky becomes enraged, and the action commences. The bad guys are thugs, the good guys are clever, and the case wraps up almost as soon as it starts. Most readers can finish the novel in a single sitting.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>The Diamond Caper</u></a>	Mayle, Peter	****	<a href="#"><u>3/15/16</u></a>	<p><b>Renovation.</b> Peter Mayle continues his Caper series with another engaging novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Diamond Caper</u></a>. A case involving stolen diamonds brings Elena back to Provence to investigate an insurance claim, and before long, she and Sam are reunited. Mayle's recipe for reading pleasure works well in this novel: interesting characters, a colorful setting, and a plot that maintains interest. The added ingredient in this installment involves a house renovation that adds more than enough new excitement to satisfy most readers. Readers who like crime fiction are likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>The Marseille Caper</u></a>	Mayle, Peter	***	<a href="#"><u>11/26/12</u></a>	<p><b>Deceptions.</b> I zipped through Peter Mayle's <a href="#"><u>The Marseille Caper</u></a> in a single evening. The plot is fast-paced, the characters are developed well enough, and the descriptions of place are just right. Because Mayle reprised characters from another novel I read, <i>The Vintage Caper</i>, I felt like I picked up the new novel where the old one left off. The latest</p>	
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novel can stand well on its own if a reader prefers to start here. I don't know if Mayle will continue with these characters in future novels, but if he does, I'm likely to read them. Any reader who likes crime fiction that comes packed with a range of deceptions will enjoy this one. I also found that the glass of wine I sipped during the second half of the novel helped cheer me to a satisfying end.

<a href="#"><u>The Vintage Caper</u></a>	Mayle, Peter	***	<a href="#"><u>5/5/10</u></a>	<b>Breezy.</b> Peter Mayle's latest book is a breezy romp from California to Marseille titled, <a href="#"><u>The Vintage Caper</u></a> . Protagonist Sam Leavitt investigates the theft of wine from a California mogul, which leads him to France. Along the way, there's great food, drink, and interesting characters. The story moves fast, and is best consumed with a glass of wine or two. Any reader looking for light reading entertainment will find some pleasure from these pages.	
<a href="#"><u>The End of Detroit: How the Big Three Lost Their Grip on the American Car Market</u></a>	Maynard, Micheline	**	<a href="#"><u>Feb 04</u></a>	<b>Stalls.</b> American car lovers will hate this book, and fans of Japanese and German imports will smile and nod. Often dull, somewhat interesting stories of what Detroit did wrong and what the others did right in recent decades.	
The Selling of the American Economy: How Foreign Companies Are Remaking the American Dream	Maynard, Micheline	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	

Exile on Wall Street: One Analyst's Fight to Save the Big Banks from Themselves

Mayo, Mike

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1/18/12

**Lonely.** Mike Mayo has spent his career as a financial analyst specializing in banks. In his book, Exile on Wall Street, Mayo describes his early experience working at the Federal Reserve providing analysis on bank mergers, and then as a sell side stock analyst for a variety of Wall Street firms. Readers will come away from this book with the sense that Mayo is not a person inclined to get along and go along. He is willing to go against the views of those around him and come up with his independent judgment. His record shows him as being right more often than he was wrong. Instead of being acclaimed for his wise analysis, he was often treated as a pariah. Accepting that his account is one side of a story, this is an interesting description of the challenges involved in financial reform. Those readers interested in this subject will find the book quick to read and liable to induce further thinking on this subject.



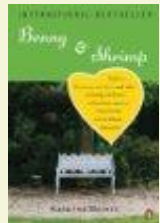
Benny & Shrimp

Mazetti, Katarina

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10/15/09

**Passion.** Katarina Mazetti's quirky debut novel, Benny & Shrimp, is the perfect book for any reader looking for a quick and entertaining jaunt into two lives and an unlikely relationship. The novel is structured in alternating chapters narrated by Benny, a rural dairy farmer, and Desiree, a city librarian whom he calls Shrimp. If the adage that opposites attract is true, this couple confirms it. Their passion is real, and despite the myriad ways in which each can infuriate the other, their relationship comes through these pages as real and as an insight into human relationships. This is a story of love, heartbreak and hope. In many ways, Benny & Shrimp is the story of anyone in a passionate relationship. While set in Sweden, this relationship could be in Wisconsin, New York, or anyplace on Earth.



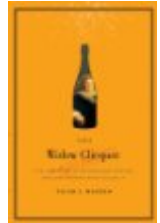
[The Widow Clicquot: The Story of a Champagne Empire and the Woman Who Ruled It](#)

Mazzeo, Tilar J.

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[4/18/09](#)

**Grande.** Tilar Mazzeo assembles fragments of an incomplete historical record, and creates an entertaining and insightful profile of one of the most successful business leaders, Barbe-Nicole Ponsardin, in a book titled [The Widow Clicquot](#). After the death of her husband, Barbe-Nicole ran the business as an audacious risk taker for much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, during wars, financial crises and technological innovations. However much you may enjoy drinking Veuve Clicquot or other champagnes, reading about the woman who revolutionized the wine business in the 19<sup>th</sup> century brings a buzz of its own. This Grande Dame was a remarkable woman, and Mazzeo brings her to life and engages readers in imagining the ways in which Barbe-Nicole faced challenges and made business decisions that led to great success.

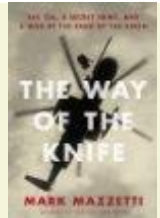


The Way of the Knife: The CIA, a Secret Army, and a War at the Ends of the Earth

Mazzetti, Mark

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.

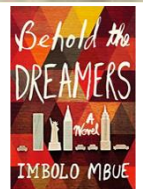


[Behold the Dreamers](#)

Mbue, Imbolo

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.



[How to Be Safe](#)

McAllister, Tom

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[7/6/18](#)

**Aftermath.** How does one cope with the aftermath of trauma? That's the subject that Tom McAllister explores in his novel titled, [How to Be Safe](#). McAllister uses finely written prose as he places readers alongside a first-person narrator, Anna Crawford, whose turmoil can be overwhelming. In a world that seems to have gone nuts, Anna is on a similar journey of one descending into a personal



				madness. Readers can become agitated with her as she tries to figure out how to be safe. A novel that explores our relationship with violence and tragedy may not appeal to all readers, but McAllister's fine writing kept me engaged. Each of us lives in the aftermath of something, and as we walk with Anna on her journey, we can reflect on how we have dealt with trauma in the past and how we might be faced with trauma in the future.	
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[The Young Widower's Handbook](#)


McAllister, Tom

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[6/20/18](#)

**Desolation.** In his debut novel titled, [The Young Widower's Handbook](#), Tom McAllister reveals wisdom far beyond his years. Following the sudden death of his wife, Kait, protagonist Hunter Cady's grief makes him numb and desolate. Kait's Philadelphia family overwhelm Hunter, and he flees them, taking Kait's ashes on a journey west, a trip they should have taken when she was alive. McAllister uses humor to great effect, adds a great cast of characters, especially in the road trip, and develops Hunter with insight into the process of grief. I enjoyed the finely written prose and reveled in the love between Kait and Hunter. The journey from desolation to consolation is well-traveled and this portrait of a marriage is finely drawn.



Dawn of the Belle Epoque	McAuliffe, Mary	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
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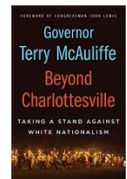
[Beyond Charlottesville: Taking a Stand Against White Nationalism](#)

McAuliffe, Terry

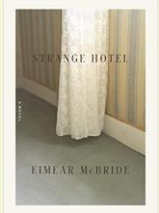
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[9/13/19](#)

**Racism.** For those readers who can set aside partisan politics (there must still be at least a minyan of us left who can do that), former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe's book titled, [Beyond Charlottesville: Taking a Stand Against White Nationalism](#), helps us reflect about racism in the United States and what to do about it. The death of



Heather Heyer and two Virginia state troopers during the violent “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville grabbed national attention. McAuliffe describes that event from his perspective at the time as governor and calls on citizens to unite in a fight against racism, hate and extremism. Even if you read this book as a fierce partisan, consider what tangible steps you can take toward addressing racism in our divided nation whether you agree with McAuliffe or not.

<a href="#"><u>Strange Hotel</u></a>	McBride, Eimear	****	<a href="#"><u>10/12/20</u></a>	<p><b>Memories.</b> What triggers your memories? The unnamed protagonist of Eimear McBride’s novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Strange Hotel</u></a>, launches into a stream of consciousness recollection of her memories after she returns to a hotel room she had stayed in years earlier. Fasten your seat belt, and stick with the recitation of places, things and people that flow past rapidly, as happens whenever our memories are triggered. The journey with this novel won’t take long, it will often be strange, and by the last page one reaction might be like mine: that was really something. I’m just not sure what.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>Deacon King Kong</u></a>	McBride, James	*****	<a href="#"><u>4/9/20</u></a>	<p><b>Sportcoat.</b> Readers looking for a funny novel with terrific characters, spot perfect dialogue and all around great writing should pick up James McBride’s novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Deacon King Kong</u></a>. The title refers to the protagonist, a church deacon with a penchant for the moonshine called King Kong, and whom everyone calls Sportcoat. Set in a Brooklyn housing project in 1969, the novel is packed with a cast of engaging characters, living and dead, and relationships that pass the test of time. I kept copying phrases like “...your cheese done slid off your cracker.” (p. 44) Add to the recipe guns, drugs, the mob, and a long-held secret, and the result is hours of hilarious reading pleasure.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>Five-Carat Soul</u></a>	McBride, James	****	<a href="#"><u>12/18/17</u></a>	<p><b>Variety.</b> Readers who enjoy fine storytelling in small does are those most likely to enjoy reading the new short story collection by James McBride titled, <a href="#"><u>Five-Carat Soul</u></a>. There's lots of variety in these stories, from animals to Abraham Lincoln. McBride's creativity is the common thread in this collection: he grabs attention and engages readers into paying attention to the story.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Good Lord Bird</u></a>	McBride, James	****	<a href="#"><u>1/13/14</u></a>	<p><b>Plan.</b> I did not expect to laugh as much as I did while reading historical fiction about John Brown and his raid on the Harper's Ferry arsenal to free slaves. While the abolitionist movement was serious business, thanks to James McBride and his finely written novel, <a href="#"><u>The Good Lord Bird</u></a>, readers can see this time period from a different point of view than most history books. John Brown has a plan, and McBride riffs on how that implausible plan failed on so many levels, yet came very close to succeeding. Using the point of view of a young black boy, Henry, McBride takes us inside Brown's world, including contact with Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglas. On one level, this is Henry's coming of age story as he recalls in old age this time in his life and in the history of slavery. Brown's version of reality is often separate from that of others, including how he thinks Henry is female, and renames her from the Henrietta he thought to his "Little Onion." Henry dresses as a girl for the bulk of the novel, and whenever he is recognized as a male, the humor quotient in the novel became elevated. The lively prose from McBride in this novel entertained me to the point that I reread some of the finest dialect he writes. Any reader of this novel will think of John Brown in new ways, and with a smile.</p>	

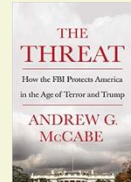
[The Threat:  
How the FBI  
Protects  
America in the  
Age of Terror  
and Trump](#)

McCabe, Andrew

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[3/6/19](#)

**Service.** Chances are that any reader will come to Andrew McCabe's book titled, [The Threat: How the FBI Protects America in the Age of Terror and Trump](#), with positive or negative views about the former acting FBI director. I opened the book expecting him to tell his side of a story that plastered the news and to attack President Trump. Instead, I read a finely written account of a life of government service and how the Federal Bureau of Investigation does its job. He describes the well-controlled processes followed by the Bureau and takes readers inside the investigative process. Any reader interested in public policy should read this book and reflect on the state of our government and its institutions. He spends very little time promoting himself and many pages talking about the investigative process and the importance of doing things by the book.



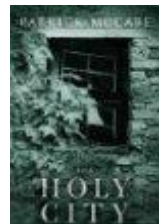
[The Holy City](#)

McCabe, Patrick


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[4/18/09](#)

**Haunting.** Chris McCool is the narrator of Patrick McCabe's new novel, [The Holy City](#). At age 67, McCool is reminiscing about his life, and the narrator zigs and zags across time periods that it can take the reader a while to feel settled. Born as the illegitimate child of a rich Protestant and poor Catholic farmer, McCool's small town formation was packed with prejudice and insularity. In the 1960s McCool embraced a campy lifestyle that offered some promise to release him from the constraints of his upbringing. While he's dating an older woman, McCool can't quite overcome his obsession with a Nigerian Catholic boy. The darkness of religious and sexual confusion seem to converge. McCool becomes institutionalized. Forty years later, while living with a wife who loves him, McCool reflects on his promise and the degree to which his madness was been cured. Thanks to McCabe's lyrical writing, the haunting and dismal



story moves along at a pace and with a verve that keeps a reader turning the pages.

Winterwood	McCabe, Patrick	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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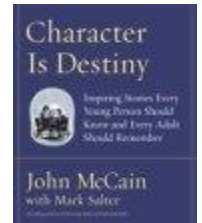
Character Is  
Destiny:  
Inspiring  
Stories Every  
Young Person  
Should Know  
and Every Adult  
Should  
Remember

McCain, John

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Mar 06

**Exemplary.** Stories of 34 individuals whose behavior epitomizes character traits within seven core values. Inspiring for all ages.



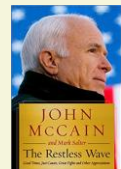
The Restless  
Wave: Good  
Times, Just  
Causes, Great  
Fights, and  
Other  
Appreciations


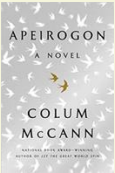
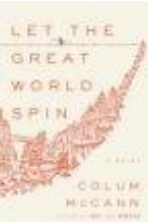
McCain, John

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6/20/18

**Farewell.** Most readers will finish reading John McCain's memoir titled, The Restless Wave: Good Times, Just Causes, Great Fights, and Other Appreciations, and anticipate how much his values and character will be missed in Washington. This patriot delivers a heartfelt farewell in this book, expressing positive views about our future and how much appreciation he has for all the opportunities he's had during his life, and how much he appreciates what others have done for him. If you're expecting this maverick to speak out of school and take a shot or three at some people he disagrees with, you will get what you expect, and more.



Them	McCall, Nathan	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2008		
<a href="#">Apeirogon</a>	McCann, Colum	*****	<a href="#">3/13/20</a>	<p><b>Facets.</b> The core of the novel titled, <a href="#">Apeirogon</a>, by Colum McCann, is based on the lives of two real men, Palestinian Bassam Aramin and Israeli Rami Elhanan. Rami's daughter, Smadar, was killed by suicide bombers, and Bassam's daughter, Abir, was killed by a rubber bullet. Their shared grief and loss draw them together to become messengers for peace. McCann constructs a multi-faceted structure to pull readers into this story. Chapters rise in number from 1-500, followed by 1001, then descend in number from 500. These pieces and fragments combine into a complete novel that does what all the best novels do: holds up life for us to examine and try to make sense of it all. This is the writer as artist producing what I consider a masterpiece.</p>	
<a href="#">Let the Great World Spin</a>	McCann, Colum	****	<a href="#">8/28/09</a>	<p><b>Voices.</b> Colum McCann's new novel, <a href="#">Let the Great World Spin</a>, presents the voices of multiple characters connected in ways that prove that even in a huge city like New York, we live in community and have an impact on the lives of those around us. The voices of multiple characters present dimensions of a time in 1974 that are true to that time and remind us of our lives today. Tying together each voice is the highwire stunt of Philippe Petit when he walked on a tightrope between the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center. The cast of characters presents the city and the community in its fullness: young artists; hookers on drugs trying to raise children; a street priest; a Park Avenue judge; a support group of women who lost sons in</p>	

the Vietnam War. Love, sorrow, redemption and understanding fill the pages of [Let the Great World Spin](#). As McCann notes on page 349, “The world spins. We stumble on. It is enough.” However you stumble along in this world, one or more characters will resonate with you and your life. McCann’s lyrical writing soars, and there’s great satisfaction and joy to be found in reading [Let the Great World Spin](#).

**Precision.** Fans of short fiction will find great craftsmanship in a new collection by Colum McCann titled, [Thirteen Ways of Looking](#). The title novella and three short stories reveal the skill of a masterful literary artist. McCann packs more fine prose and deep insight into the character Peter Mendohlsson, a retired judge, in the novella than many writers can achieve over a lifetime. I reread many of McCann’s finely crafted sentences more than once, and even read some aloud to hear how perfectly the phrases sing. Much of life is a matter of perspective, a viewpoint, and in the novella and in the stories, McCann draws our attention to multiple perspectives that create a masterful whole.

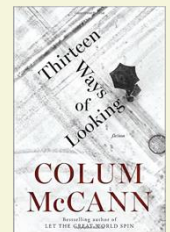
**Intimate.** When I finished the last page of Colum McCann’s novel, [Transatlantic](#), the first question I asked myself was “how did he do that?” While presenting a sweeping and complicated story across time, he was able to make the novel seem intimate. McCann’s prose soars with perfect word selection, precise descriptive language and compelling creativity. He includes characters that many readers know including Frederick Douglas and George Mitchell, and draws readers into the kind of details that present these great lives as intimate ones. All the plot lines in the novel connect Ireland and the United States, and McCann does that in creative and interesting ways. Any reader who

[Thirteen Ways of Looking](#)

McCann, Colum

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[2/5/16](#)

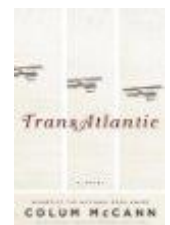


[Transatlantic](#)


McCann, Colum

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[6/20/13](#)

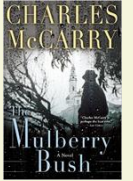


appreciates fine writing should consider reading this novel.

Zoli	McCann, Colum	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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The Last Supper McCarry, Charles      Unread      Shelf of Ennui 2006







<a href="#"><u>The Mulberry Bush</u></a>	McCarry, Charles	*****	<a href="#"><u>10/20/16</u></a>	<p><b>Vengeance.</b> Readers who enjoy spy fiction are those most likely to appreciate Charles McCarry's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Mulberry Bush</u></a>. McCarry frames the story from the viewpoint of a spy whose estranged father was a disgraced spy. The son embarks on a path of vengeance against those who destroyed his father's career. All of the typical spy novel twists and turns add great pleasure to reading this novel. The multiple agendas of multiple characters may keep some readers on their toes.</p>	
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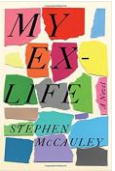

[The Shanghai Factor](#)      McCarry, Charles      \*\*\*\*\*      [3/22/14](#)




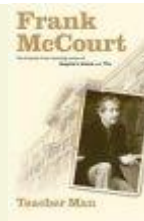

**Counter.** Readers who enjoy spy novels in which things are not as they appear to be are those most likely to enjoy reading Charles McCarry's novel, [The Shanghai Factor](#). The unnamed protagonist has been recruited by HQ to go to Shanghai, learn the language well, and see what develops. The senior spymasters play a long game, and McCarry keeps the plot moving while placing the characters in situations that leave a reader wondering whether it's counterintelligence or other factors that are driving the action. I found this novel to be entertaining, and enjoyed the complexity.


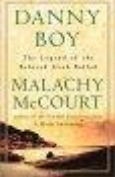








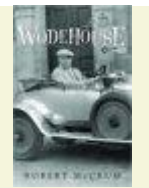
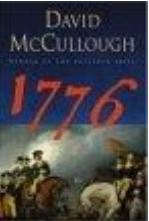
<a href="#"><u>No Country For Old Men</u></a>	McCarthy, Cormac	***	<a href="#"><u>Sep 05</u></a>	<b>Stun.</b> Spare, raw dialogue and dialect move along a story of good versus evil, overwhelming stunning violence, and the way that chance and luck change our lives.	
<a href="#"><u>The Road</u></a>	McCarthy, Cormac	*****	<a href="#"><u>Dec 06</u></a>	<b>Hope.</b> Sparse and perfect prose in outstanding novel, set after nuclear calamity. An unnamed man and his son show that when everything else is lost, what's left is hope, faith, and mostly love.	
<a href="#"><u>C</u></a>	McCarthy, Tom	**	<a href="#"><u>11/15/10</u></a>	<b>Curiosity.</b> It was curiosity that led me to Tom McCarthy's novel, <a href="#"><u>C</u></a> . From the first page through the last, I remained curious and questioning: just what is he doing here and what is this all about? In many respects, this is the most unusual novel I've read in a long time. McCarthy riffs on all kinds of "C's" from the protagonist's name (Carrefax) to carbon, caul, chloroform, cocaine, communication, cysteine, connection and dozens more. Carrefax behaves with enough eccentricity to feed one's curiosity and other characters arrive and depart without making much of an impression. Readers with the patience to slog through digressions and disconnections might find pleasure on these pages. For me, it was curiosity that maintained my page turning, and I was as bewildered at the end as I was at the beginning and in the middle. Sample a few dozen pages before deciding whether or not this a novel for you.	
Men in Space	McCarthy, Tom	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	

Satin Island	McCarthy, Tom	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
The Teapot Dome Scandal	McCartney, Laton	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Alternatives to Sex	McCauley, Stephen	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
<u>My Ex-Life</u>	McCauley, Stephen	****	<u>5/22/18</u>	<p><b>Ensemble.</b> For those readers who find pleasure in spending time with an ensemble of interesting characters, consider reading Stephen McCauley's novel titled, <u>My Ex-Life</u>. The central characters are undergoing dramatic changes in their lives which provides the tension for the plot. Secondary characters provide terrific comic relief and reduce focus on looming deadlines in the lives of the protagonists. Underlying these relationships there is a deep caring for others that shows up in many forms. The setting, a seaside Massachusetts town, is presented with just enough detail to become vivid for readers.</p>	
<u>What Happened: Inside the Bush White House and Washington's</u>	McClellan, Scott	***	<u>Oct 08</u>	<p><b>Misled.</b> Former White House Press Secretary presents how he was misled by five high level people, and how he is to blame for that. Lots of inside detail for political junkies, and plenty of confusion when two conflicting positions are presented.</p>	

<a href="#">Culture of Deception</a>					
Faster, Higher, Stronger: How Sports Science Is Creating a New Generation of Superathletes--and What We Can Learn from Them	McClusky, Mark	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<a href="#">Solar Bones</a>	McCormack, Mike	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<a href="#">'Tis</a>	McCourt, Frank	***		If you liked reading <i>Angela's Ashes</i> , you'll also enjoy <i>'Tis</i> . We look forward to McCourt putting the memoirs aside and writing something else.	
<a href="#">Teacher Man</a>	McCourt, Frank	***	<a href="#">Feb 06</a>	<b>Unorthodox.</b> Entertaining memoir of thirty years teaching in the New York City schools with a creative bent, asking students to read aloud from cookbooks, practice writing excuse notes, and draft suicide notes.	
Lasting City	McCourt, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	

<a href="#"><u>A Monk Swimming</u></a>	McCourt, Malachy	DNR		We loved brother Frank's <i>Angela's Ashes</i> , but hated <i>A Monk Swimming</i> . We're glad Malachy never hung around our neighborhood.	
<a href="#"><u>Danny Boy: The Legend of the Beloved Irish Ballad</u></a>	McCourt, Malachy	DNR	<a href="#"><u>May 02</u></a>	100 double-spaced pages of rambling drivel that a reader couldn't care about. Consider as a gift to someone named Dan who you don't like.	
<a href="#"><u>Bowlaway</u></a>	McCracken, Elizabeth	*****	<a href="#"><u>4/4/19</u></a>	<b>Inheritance.</b> A New England bowling alley turns out to be the perfect place to discover identity. In her novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Bowlaway</u></a> , Elizabeth McCracken takes readers into a bowling alley and its resident owners and patrons across multiple generations. The inheritance of the bowling alley depends on identity. Protagonist Bertha Truitt may be the most fully formed of the large cast of characters in the novel, and she will come to life for most readers as she brooks no question or objection about her abilities as a woman to do as she pleases. McCracken goes wild in this novel, and readers are enriched as a result, thanks to her fine writing. I had to look up many words while reading this novel because McCracken uses terminology suited to each time period we visit. I also had to learn what candlepin bowling is and saw that it's available in Chicago. Readers whose taste leans toward the quirky are those most likely to enjoy this novel. Treat your wild side with this novel and leave behind no regrets.	
<a href="#"><u>Thunderstruck and Other Stories</u></a>	McCracken, Elizabeth	****	<a href="#"><u>12/5/14</u></a>	<b>Losses.</b> We can seem so different from other people and then something happens that pierces us and we recognize ourselves as having so much in common with others. In the collection of nine short stories by Elizabeth McCracken titled	

Thunderstruck, the characters at first can seem so different: their losses are not our losses, their pain and grief are not our pain. Somehow McCracken finds the universal experience in the human behavior of characters who upon second or third reflection are just like us. The finest fiction accomplishes this deft trick: using some different reality from our own to enliven the world in which we live and then lead us to deeper love and understanding. McCracken's writing in each story accomplished this feat, and those readers who appreciate fine writing will enjoy this collection.

Chief Culture Officer: How to Create a Living, Breathing Corporation	McCracken, Grant	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<u>Truth in Our Times: Inside the Fight for Press Freedom in the Age of Alternative Facts</u>	McCraw, David E.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Wodehouse: A Life	McCrum, Robert	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>1776</u>	McCullough, David	***	<u>July 05</u>	<b>Runaway.</b> By selecting a single year for focus, images of leadership, especially that of George Washington, can be examined intently. Choosing to flee rather than fight worked in 1776 for Washington, as did acting prior to authorization.	

<a href="#"><u>John Adams</u></a>	McCullough, David	****	<a href="#"><u>Apr 02</u></a>	Read this outstanding biography of the second U.S. President and watch yourself go from respect and admiration to liking him, despite how hard he was to get along with.	
<a href="#"><u>The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For</u></a>	McCullough, David	****	<a href="#"><u>5/23/17</u></a>	<b>Inspiration.</b> Readers looking for some hopeful and optimistic messages from a wise historian should consider reading David McCullough's book titled, <a href="#"><u>The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For</u></a> . This volume gathers speeches that McCullough has given over the past quarter-century, many of them commencement addresses at colleges and universities. I found his spirit contagious and each of the speeches provides heavy doses of inspiration. Whether you've attended a commencement this year or not, as participant or observer, and no matter how much concern you have about the current divisions in American life, there's a positive message that will match or exceed whatever has inspired you lately.	
<a href="#"><u>The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris</u></a>	McCullough, David	****	<a href="#"><u>5/19/11</u></a>	<b>Sparkling.</b> However well you know Paris and many of the characters presented in this book, thanks to the fine writing of David McCullough you will learn more and enjoy yourself when you read his new book, <a href="#"><u>The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris</u></a> . McCullough focuses on the 19 <sup>th</sup> century, 1830-1900, when many Americans of various professions headed to Paris for education and inspiration. The huge cast of characters he presents provides a range of experiences that McCullough describes in lively prose that continually entertains and informs. The city of light shines, even while embattled, and the camaraderie and vivacity of the characters provide a range of drama that will absorb every reader interested in that time, that place, and any of the people who were there.	



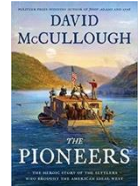
The Pioneers:  
The Heroic  
Story of the  
Settlers Who  
Brought the  
American Ideal  
West

McCullough,  
David

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6/24/19

**Cutlers.** Readers who enjoy history that's lively and well-written should consider David McCullough's book titled, The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West. McCullough focuses on the movement west in the settlement of the Northwest Territory, the place that became the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. McCullough tells of the Cutler family, especially Manasseh Cutler, a Massachusetts minister, whose efforts led to the settlement of this region, and whose leadership ensured that three key provisions were included in what Congress approved: freedom of religion, a prohibition of slavery in the territory, and universal education. Cutler's son, Ephraim embodied these values, and ensured his father's values would continue. McCullough tells the story of this time in American history through the Cutlers and through a few other significant characters. As a result, readers are brought into the time and place in a very readable narrative.



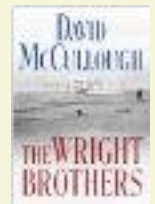
The Wright  
Brothers

McCullough,  
David

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9/23/15

**Determination.** David McCullough is a historian who really knows how to tell a story. We all know one part of the story: Wilbur and Orville Wright built and flew the first motor-powered airplane. What it took for that happen, how they did it, what came before and what came after the Kitty Hawk flight, provide for hours of engaging reading in McCullough's book titled, The Wright Brothers. The determination and self-reliance of these brothers captures the spirit of the United States especially during that era of radical invention and progress in the early twentieth century. McCullough selects just the right details to present, but never overwhelms his audience. Readers who like history will love this book.



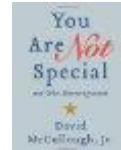
You Are Not  
Special: And  
Other  
Encouragemen  
s

McCullough, Jr.,  
David

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6/11/14

**Lessons.** Longtime high school English teacher David McCullough, Jr. was surprised when his commencement address became a social media sensation. The theme of the address touched a popular nerve: You Are Not Special. The buzz led to a book deal, and while the commencement address itself appears at the end of the book, the bulk of the text does what McCullough does best: it teaches. The lessons McCullough presents, as we should expect, come from literature. I enjoyed reading the solid life lessons in this book, and recommend the book to any reader who likes to think for him or herself.



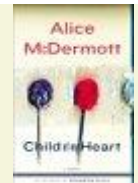
Child of My  
Heart

McDermott, Alice

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Jan 03

**Bruised.** McDermott uses fine writing in a coming of age story to explore the many ways we humans bruise each other as we try to love and care for someone else.



After This

McDermott,  
Alice

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Nov 06

**Gifts.** Gifted author's latest novel wastes no words telling us the stories of Long Island's Keane family from 1940 to the present, packed full of that era's blessings, losses and disappointments.



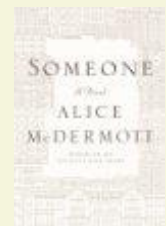
Someone

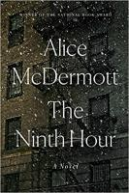
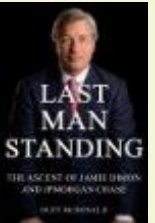
McDermott,  
Alice

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9/24/13

**Restraint.** I was blown away by Alice McDermott's novel, Someone. In a compact 240 pages, she presents the full and interesting life of an ordinary woman, protagonist Marie Commeford. McDermott presents scenes from childhood, adolescence, marriage, motherhood and old age, to reveal the richness of life, love and family. Through stripping away anything unnecessary, McDermott allows readers to enter into a time period (post World War II) and a place (Brooklyn) that combine to reveal the depth of emotion and human experience that can be found in the most ordinary lives. Readers who lived as Brooklyn Irish Catholics will note that



			McDermott captures the essence of that life. Any reader who appreciates well-written prose will likely enjoy this superb novel.	
<a href="#"><u>The Ninth Hour</u></a>	McDermott, Alice	*****	10/9/17	<p><b>Nuns.</b> I challenge any reader of Alice McDermott's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Ninth Hour</u></a>, to finish it and not love the nuns. Through tightly written lyrical prose, McDermott takes us into the world of Catholic Brooklyn in the early to mid-twentieth century. Like McDermott, I was born into that culture in the middle of the twentieth century and there were nuns everywhere. Don't expect to find the cheery singing nuns from the movies in McDermott's world. These are hard-working, pragmatic women who are wise to the ways of the world and the Church, and live close to poor people and care for them with deep love and practical action. McDermott wastes no words in capturing setting and character. Here's one of my favorite sentences from p.26: "All joy was thin ice to Sister Lucy." So much explained and understood in just eight words. The rest of the words in this novel are just as perfect as these eight.</p> 
<a href="#"><u>Last Man Standing: The Ascent of Jamie Dimon and JPMorgan Chase</u></a>	McDonald, Duff	****	12/14/09	<p><b>Respect.</b> Duff McDonald's new book is titled, <a href="#"><u>Last Man Standing: The Ascent of Jamie Dimon and JPMorgan Chase</u></a>. This is an engaging and readable story of a talented and intriguing personality whose leadership of a major financial institution seems to have beaten all competitors. Dimon comes across in <a href="#"><u>Last Man Standing</u></a> as a hard worker, who digs into details deeply enough to gain insight and understanding. Rarely one to suffer fools gladly, his blunt communication style leaves little doubt about the meaning behind his messages. As a leader he's strongly supportive of those talented people who work with him, and wants to be questioned and challenged in making key decisions. McDonald calls close attention to the impact of people decisions,</p> 

especially the cost of the decision of Sandy Weill to fire Dimon. Throughout [Last Man Standing](#), I came away with the perspective that Dimon respects others, and prefers honesty over anything else. While bordering at times on hagiography, [Last Man Standing](#) conveys the impact that one leader can have on a large organization, and how sticking to principles can lead to long term success. Every time I started to think he is too good to be true, an example of his success made me think he is really quite good at what he does. On top of his business success, Dimon places high priority on his family life, and that aspect of his life comes across in the book as normal and functional. When I finished the book, I thought of Jamie Dimon as the Winston Churchill of banking. Any reader with an interest in finance or leadership will find much to enjoy about [Last Man Standing](#).

**People.** Duff McDonald's book, [The Firm: The Story of McKinsey and Its Secret Influence on American Business](#), appeals to many different readers. Any businessperson who has worked for an organization that used McKinsey & Company as consultants will find in this book a context in which to place that experience, whether positive or negative. Readers who have never heard of this influential consultancy will learn what it is, what it does, and how it has achieved ongoing success. Consultants of all stripes will resonate with the work McDonald describes. The writing is brisk and is full of stories about the people who led the firm and who formed its corporate culture. McDonald accomplishes in this book what most journalists try to achieve: he catches the interest of readers by the way he calls attention to what may be otherwise overlooked.

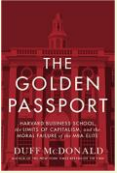
[The Firm: The Story of McKinsey and Its Secret Influence on American Business](#)

McDonald, Duff

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[11/26/13](#)



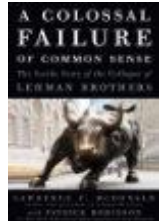
<a href="#"><u>The Golden Passport: Harvard Business School, the Limits of Capitalism, and the Moral Failure of the MBA Elite</u></a>	McDonald, Duff	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
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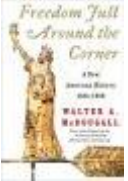
[A Colossal Failure of Common Sense: The Inside Story of the Collapse of Lehman Brothers](#) McDonald, Lawrence G. and Patrick Robinson

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[9/27/09](#)

**Trader.** Most of the books I've read about the current financial crisis have been written by economists, journalists and other experts. Lawrence McDonald was a trader at Lehman Brothers and his book, [A Colossal Failure of Common Sense: The Inside Story of the Collapse of Lehman Brothers](#), presents a personal perspective on Lehman and its demise. Reading this book is like sitting in a bar listening to a regular guy tell his work stories in colorful language, loaded with personal opinions about people and events. McDonald told his tales to Patrick Robinson who wrote this book. If a reader keeps in mind that McDonald was one of 25,000 employees at Lehman, that he was there only a few years before the company failed, and that he was fired before the bankruptcy, expectations about insight and perspective can be contained. Rather than the subtitle's claim to be the inside story of the collapse of Lehman, [A Colossal Failure of Common Sense](#) is a personal story of one person's work experience on a small team of people with a bucket of opinions about what was happening all around him.



An Expensive Education	McDonnell, Nick	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
Freedom Just Around the Corner: A New American History, 1585-1828	McDougall, Walter A.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<a href="#">My Father's Footprints: A Memoir</a>	McEnroe, Colin	***	<a href="#">May 04</a>	<b>Da Paradox.</b> Second only to the power of mother-daughter relationships would be father-son relationships. Well-written memoir delves into mortality, grieving, and losing a parent while being a parent.	
<a href="#">Machines Like Me</a>	McEwan, Ian	*****	<a href="#">7/3/19</a>	<b>Turing.</b> Intelligent and thoughtful readers are those most likely to appreciate Ian McEwan's novel titled, <a href="#">Machines Like Me</a> . Many of us wonder about how different the world might have been if certain events turned out differently. In the 1980s setting for this novel, among other changes, Great Britain loses the Falklands War, and Alan Turing lives. Protagonist Charlie inherits some money and uses it to purchase Adam, an early automated human life form. McEwan riffs on the Turing test, and allows readers to consider how the full cast of characters measure up to living a good life and being a good human.	
<a href="#">Nutshell</a>	McEwan, Ian	*****	<a href="#">10/12/16</a>	<b>Compact.</b> I love Ian McEwan's novel titled, <a href="#">Nutshell</a> , for many reasons. The originality and cleverness of using a fetus as narrator was brilliant. The notion that this fetus is full of insight and broad knowledge was a real kick, especially when it came to the commentary of the fetus about wine.	



McEwan's prose, like the title, packs a wallop with great efficiency. He never uses two words when one will do. He never uses one word when five are necessary to deliver just the right impact. Some readers may see this as a modern take on *Hamlet* and enjoy McEwan's approach even more from that perspective. Finally, first and last really, this is fine storytelling involving deceit and murder. Readers who love finely written literary fiction are those most like to enjoy this novel.

On Chesil Beach

McEwan, Ian

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Aug 07

**Silence.** Finely written novel, set in 1963 on the honeymoon of two innocent virgins, whose unspoken fears about sex lead to the consequences of saying nothing when words are needed, and the inability to take back the wrong words expressed.



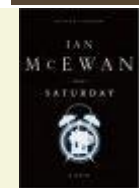
Saturday

McEwan, Ian

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June 05

**Diurnal.** Astutely structured novel presents a day in the life of London neurosurgeon Henry Perowne through finely written prose and a complicated plot that will satisfy readers who enjoy that which stimulates thinking.



Solar

McEwan, Ian

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3/12/10

**Light.** I'm rarely willing to read three hundred pages of a novel featuring a protagonist that I dislike. Usually, I'll give up after a few dozen pages and read something else. Ian McEwan's fine writing in Solar kept me reading, and by the end I found the novel fully satisfying. After protagonist Michael Beard won a Nobel prize in physics, his work had begun to coast in a detached way for years, as he has become an eminence grise garnering speaking fees and figurehead roles. Always an unfaithful partner in his personal life, his fifth marriage is on the verge of failure; this time his wife is also unfaithful. He's become overweight and drinks to excess. The time periods in the novel are 2000, 2005 and 2009, so we see the consistencies and changes in Beard during these times. Quantum



physics plays a part in *Solar*, and it is light itself that becomes a motif. I laughed hilariously at Michael on a skidoo in the bitter cold in one scene, and couldn't wait for Beard's deceptions to be revealed. Each of us knows a Michael Beard of one sort or another, and reading *Solar* brings to life a character with whom we would gladly spend our lives avoiding.

**Deception.** Deception is at the core of Ian McEwan's novel, *Sweet Tooth*. McEwan sets the novel in England in the early 1970s, and uses a female protagonist and narrator, Serena Frome, to tell a slowly paced entertaining story about a new MI5 recruit and her relationship with the target of her initial assignment, a promising writer named Tom Healy. Serena's deception with Tom provides the plot action to engage readers in this story. As their relationship becomes intimate, the risks of the deception unraveling increased, adding a narrative tension that I found enjoyable. McEwan develops the complexity of both characters in ways that made me feel that I understood them quite well. Lovers of finely written prose will appreciate McEwan's skill in this novel. I especially enjoyed his use of Serena as a reader to provide context and insight into writers and writing as viewed from the perspective of a reader.

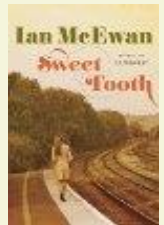
**Living.** The best novelists present readers with fully formed, complex characters, and place them in situations that reveal something true about our human condition, or what it means to live. Ian McEwan examines the choice to live or to die in his novel titled, *The Children Act*. Protagonist Fiona Maye is a judge in the family court in London, and her work life and home life are radically different. About to turn sixty, her childless thirty-five year marriage is strained because of her husband's

[Sweet Tooth](#)

McEwan, Ian

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[1/10/13](#)

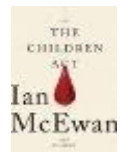


[The Children Act](#)

McEwan, Ian

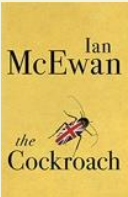
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[9/26/14](#)



infidelity. Tension at work accelerates when she is called into an emergency case of a seventeen-year-old boy who has refused a lifesaving blood transfusion for religious reasons. Her visit with the boy pairs two intelligent characters struggling with what it means to live and to die, and the choice to live or die, quickly or slowly. McEwan reveals all this in a compact novel that delighted me from beginning to end.

**Satire.** Readers who enjoy both political satire and literature are those most likely to enjoy Ian McEwan's skewering of Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Brexit in a novel titled, The Cockroach. With a nod to Kafka, McEwan spews invective with precision on Johnson and on the gullible people who believe what he says. If you need a good laugh, reading about reverse-flow economics will do the trick. To whatever extent McEwan wrote this novel to help us laugh at these crazy upside-down times, he succeeded with me, especially when his prose was so finely structured that the satire extended beyond politics to overwrought literary facades.

<u>The Cockroach</u>	McEwan, Ian	*****	<u>11/9/20</u>		
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The Breakthrough Company

McFarland, Keith

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



<u>From Cold War to Hot Peace: An American Ambassador in Putin's Russia</u>	McFaul, Michael	*****	<u>8/3/18</u>	<b>Stories.</b> Former U.S. Ambassador to Russia and Stanford professor Michael McFaul has written an engaging book titled, <u>From Cold War to Hot Peace: An American Ambassador in Putin's Russia</u> . McFaul tells stories in this book: his own and others. Instead of leaning on the academic side, McFaul makes readers feel like they are with him in various situations. McFaul places blame for the	
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				<p>tension in the American-Russian relationship on Putin. Progress made under Medvedev was reversed when Putin decided to set a different course. It's clear that McFaul sees many benefits in a good relationship between the United States and Russia and he hopes such a relationship can be achieved. Readers interested in public policy and international relations are those most likely to enjoy this well written book.</p>	
<a href="#">Flat Broke with Two Goats</a>	McGaha, Jennifer	****	<a href="#">5/3/18</a>	<p><b>Next.</b> Financial disaster arrived in the lives of Jennifer McGaha and her husband. Her memoir of this time is a finely written book titled, <a href="#">Flat Broke with Two Goats</a>. Some people look backward when they face unwelcome change, but McGaha seemed to always look forward. Along the journey from an ordinary middle class suburban life to living in a neglected one-hundred-year-old cabin, McGaha seems to shift in her perspective of where she finds value in life. As I read this book, I remembered hearing wisdom from Normal Lear about his life lessons, the most important of which were two words: over and next. Whatever happened is over. It's time for what's next, so get on with it. What McGaha ended up getting on with was less college teaching and more goat raising. Fans of memoirs will find a lot to enjoy in McGaha's story.</p>	
A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920	McGerr, Michael E.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	

The Power of  
Movies

McGinn, Colin

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



House Lust:  
America's  
Obsession With  
Our Homes

McGinn, Daniel  
F.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



Never Enough

McGinniss, Joe

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June 08

**Reality.** The true story of two brothers who are murdered, one in Hong Kong and the other in Greenwich, Connecticut. This couldn't be a novel because so much behavior is implausible, not unlike reality television.

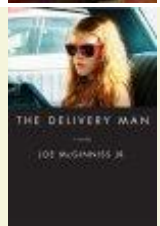


The Delivery  
Man

McGinniss, Jr.,  
Joe

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



The Expected  
One

McGowan,  
Kathleen

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



Trauma

McGrath, Patrick

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

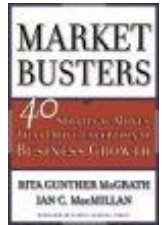


MarketBusters

McGrath, Rita  
Gunther

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



Joy and 52  
Other Very  
Short Stories

McGraw, Erin

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2/21/20

**Insight.** Erin McGraw knows people in all our rich humanity, and she knows how to put together a phrase. In her collection titled, Joy and 52 Other Very Short Stories, McGraw treats us to her insight about people and draws out laughter regularly. Treat this collection as you would a prized box of Belgian chocolates or a rare single malt Scotch. Dole out the stories in small doses, so the pleasure lasts longer. She does more in a page or two than some writers can accomplish in multiple volumes. In the pause between stories, I found my imagination running away using McGraw's words as a starting block, and the open track ahead for me to use the insight I gained to wonder about us and our world.



Reservoir 13

McGregor, Ian

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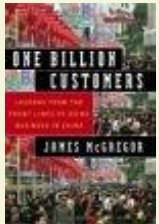
12/7/17

**Ripples.** Each of has at one time or another tossed a rock into the water and watched the ripples expand from the place where the rock hit the water. In his novel titled, Reservoir 13, Ian McGregor explores lots of ripples in a community after a girl goes missing. The exploration involves observations, glimpses of life, telling us that life has gone on after the disappearance. This novel is an exploration of the ordinary and an examination of the progression of time in the natural environment and among the people living in a particular place. Readers who expect a novel to offer a plot that can be followed will be impatient with this book. Readers who are open to fictional experimentation will love this novel. The prose is finely written, and the descriptions of the environment are lyrical.





Once I stopped trying to figure out what was going on, I enjoyed every page.

One Billion Customers: Lessons from the Front Lines of Doing Business in China	McGregor, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
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**Connected.** The quirky exploration of an ordinary place and a missing girl that Jon McGregor began with his novel titled, *Reservoir 13*, continues with a new book titled, [The Reservoir Tapes](#). McGregor offers fifteen perspectives of members of this small community. In this second novel, McGregor helps readers see how a tragedy can fade into the background life of any community. The village we met in the first novel seems very different in the second. McGregor first presented this narrative on BBC Radio 4, and some readers may want to receive the text in audio rather than print form. I found that hearing helped me appreciate McGregor's skill in capturing the cadences of everyday speech, while connecting the pieces to allow us to gain insight into how people reveal their inner selves. While this novel stands on its own, when read in conjunction with the earlier novel, a reader can appreciate the breadth of McGregor's writing expertise.

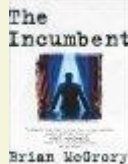
[The Reservoir Tapes](#)

McGregor, Jon

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[7/3/19](#)



<u><a href="#">The Incumbent</a></u>	McGrory, Brian	***		Great first novel by journalist McGrory. Recommended.	
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Birth of a Nation: A Comic Novel

McGruder,  
Aaron, Reginald  
Hudlin, and Kyle  
Baker

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Oct 04

**Secession.** Graphic novel presents biting political satire of what happens when the black voters of East St. Louis are disenfranchised and a presidential election is stolen.



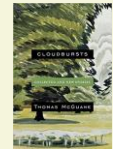
Cloudbursts

McGuane,  
Thomas

\*\*\*\*

9/5/18

**Range.** Fans of short stories can devour forty-five well-written ones in a collection by Thomas McGuane titled, Cloudbursts. I marveled at the range of characters, place and situation that McGuane offers. This is solid writing by a real craftsman. Within all the constraints of short fiction, every story is complete: we understand these people, their situations, and the range of behavior that they exhibit. There are no clunkers here.



Crow Fair

McGuane,  
Thomas

\*\*\*\*\*

6/26/15

**Montana.** Whatever else you do for summer vacation this year, you can have a great time in Montana if you read the stories in a new collection by Thomas McGuane titled after one of them, Crow Fair. I found no clunkers among the seventeen stories in this collection. I restricted myself to just one per day, and had the pleasure of reading the story of the day more than once as a way to prolong the pleasure. McGuane writes with great skill, and any reader who appreciates fine literary fiction should enjoy this collection whether you love Montana or not.



Driving on the Rim

McGuane,  
Thomas

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4/26/11

**Doctor.** The big questions about life are never far away from the characters in Thomas McGuane's latest novel, Driving on the Rim. Protagonist Irving Berlin Pickett is a housepainter and doctor who has never strayed far from hometown Livingston, Montana, and seems constantly in wonder on the puzzles of what life is all about. McGuane's choice of words had me re-read many sentences in admiration. At times, I laughed out loud. Spending time with Pickett and McGuane is a real pleasure,



				and any reader who enjoys fine writing is likely to enjoy this novel.	
<a href="#"><u>Gallatin Canyon</u></a>	McGuane, Thomas	***	<a href="#"><u>Dec 06</u></a>	<b>Characters.</b> Ten short stories feature flawed characters with emotional depth contained just below the surface.	
<a href="#"><u>Carousel Court</u></a>	McGuinness, Jr. Joe	*****	<a href="#"><u>10/4/16</u></a>	<b>Uprooted.</b> Novels can often hold up a mirror to our lives in ways that lead to delight or to depression. In his finely written novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Carousel Court</u></a> , Joe McGuinness, Jr. may lead readers in both directions. Phoebe and Nick Maguire move from Boston to California just as the financial crisis is about to descend on them and the rest of us. Their flip plan for a large California house flops. While many readers will find sadness and despair as they become uprooted in multiple ways, other readers will delight in the resilience that can be found by some of us when encountering setbacks. McGuinness makes us care about these characters, even though we may not like them or their behavior. We may encounter many novelists who choose the housing and financial crisis as a great canvas. McGuinness uses that backdrop very well in this novel, and readers who enjoy finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy this book.	
<a href="#"><u>Throw Me to the Wolves</u></a>	McGuinness, Patrick	*****	<a href="#"><u>7/16/19</u></a>	<b>Chapleton.</b> After every chapter of Patrick McGuinness' novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Throw Me to the Wolves</u></a> , I found myself liking it more, thanks to the many ways in which the author succeeds. At the core, this is a crime novel: a dead body, a suspect, two detectives. That only provides the structure in which McGuinness struts his stuff. His prose is finely written, and he allows his characters to surprise readers with humor, psychological insight,	

and reflections about memory and childhood. The suspect in the murder is a neighbor of the victim, a retired public school teacher. One of the detectives went to that school, Chapleton, and knew the suspect as a teacher. McGuinness exposes the impact of tabloids in contemporary society, and the ways in which anyone who seems different can be held suspect. The action alternates between the present and thirty years earlier at Chapleton. Fans of literary fiction will be delighted by the prose. Readers who love complex characters will revel in this cast. Those who love crime fiction will find a satisfying investigation and engaging mystery.

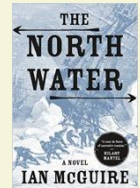
**Cold.** Ian McGuire's novel titled, [The North Water](#), made me shiver for many reasons. The action takes place on a whaling ship heading to the Arctic in the 1850s, so the physical setting is frigid. The characters present dark and cold elements from a captain considered unlucky by his crew, to a murderer, to a surgeon brooding over his past. McGuire matches his prose to the setting and the characters: sharp, bitter cold, penetrating language. There's no nostalgia for the good old days of some idealized past as we find in much historical fiction. McGuire presents a harsh time with hard people fighting for survival. On deeper levels, McGuire injects a notion of resurrection that I found was a pathway to escape the cold and darkness facing readers on every page. Fans of finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy this well-crafted novel. A huge bonus was the suspense in the plot which made my heart beat faster, and warm me from the coldness of the page.

[The North Water](#)

McGuire, Ian

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[12/2/16](#)



A Hedonist in  
the Cellar

McInerney, Jay

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



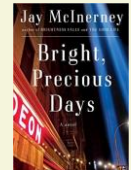
Bright, Precious  
Days

McInerney, Jay

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3/23/17

**Loss.** Fans of Jay McInerney's novels will be pleased that he has reprised protagonists Corrine and Russell Calloway in a new novel titled, Bright, Precious Days. The Calloway marriage has been under strain since 9/11 and the financial crisis upends their lives. A sense of loss permeates their lives alongside their deep love for New York City. The city is changing and touchstones that kept them steady can no longer be relied upon. Even their summer rental in the Hamptons is changing. Through all these losses, there's still love and humor, some of it slapstick. McInerney loves NYC and these characters who fit into the city one way or another, no matter how seriously they take themselves, and how little the city could care. McInerney's prose captures his observations with fine language and presents these characters, their story, and the city in ways that will please many readers, especially those who love New York.



How It Ended:  
New and  
Collected  
Stories

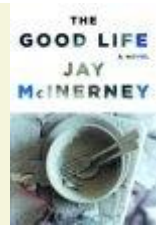



McInerney, Jay

Ennui

10/15/09

I sampled and skimmed the 12 stories in Jay McInerney's new collection titled, How It Ended. I guess I never found out how it ended, since I put the book aside without finishing it. I had read most of the stories when originally published, and found myself turning to the next one rather than re-reading one I had read years earlier. They might have been worth spending the time reading the first time around, but for whatever reason, I had no interest in reading them again.



<a href="#"><u>The Good Life</u></a>	McInerney, Jay	***	<a href="#"><u>Apr 06</u></a>	<b>Transformations.</b> Simple love story about two Manhattan couples and their lives shortly before and after 9/11. Their search for meaning in life changes when the towers fall.	
<a href="#"><u>The Blood Miracles</u></a>	McInerney, Lisa	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<a href="#"><u>The Glorious Heresies</u></a>	McInerney, Lisa	*****	<a href="#"><u>3/23/17</u></a>	<b>Salvific.</b> The debut novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Glorious Heresies</u></a> , by Lisa McInerney, packs a wallop. Set in Ireland after the financial meltdown, she presents the dark lives of troubled characters sorely in need of redemption. The ways in which characters use each other while rationalizing that they do what they do for those others, can define dysfunction. The feelings of remorse and guilt are often misplaced, whether about drugs, sex or violence, all of which are on frequent display. The motif of flames burning out the abuses of the past is offered with skill and precision, arising at just the right point in the narrative. Salvation for the main characters comes from unlikely places, and the bonds of family are strained from the beginning of the novel to the end. Readers who enjoy superb writing are those most likely to enjoy this unusual, quirky, and finely written novel.	
<a href="#"><u>theMystery.doc</u></a>	McIntosh, Matthew	*****	<a href="#"><u>3/20/18</u></a>	<b>Life.</b> Prepare to haul around the five pound 1,600+ page novel titled, <a href="#"><u>theMystery.doc</u></a> , by Matthew McIntosh for several weeks. I started and finished this book with admiration and confusion. If I had to answer a question about the subject of the novel, I would ramble about it being about life, and identity, and God, and spirituality, and loss, and laughter, and writing. The form and structure of the book are	




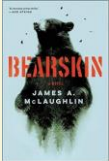
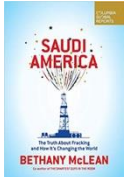
unusual. There are lots of blank spaces, disconnected phrases, photos, asterisks by the dozens, and blank pages. Sometimes it took me a half hour to read fifty pages; other times I turned fifty pages within five minutes. Still, it takes a while to immerse oneself in a big book like this that includes a ribbon placeholder. When I closed the last page, I felt refreshed. I felt like I had a new understanding of the decade or so after 9/11. I felt, as always, that life itself is a mystery. Take a look at this novel and consider giving yourself over to it. I'm glad I surrendered myself to a form and structure that kept me off balance, just like the cover image, and just like life.

Tommy the Cork: Washington's Ultimate Insider From Roosevelt to Reagan	McKean, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<u>Stop That Girl</u>	McKenzie, Elizabeth	**	<u>Dec 05</u>	<b>Unconventional.</b> Nine short stories, each of which features Ann Ransom from childhood to adulthood, striving for a normal life but following her mother's unconventional example.	
<u>The Portable Veblen</u>	McKenzie, Elizabeth	****	<u>8/26/16</u>	<b>Unconventional.</b> I ended up enjoying the quirkiness of Elizabeth McKenzie's novel titled, <u>The Portable Veblen</u> . Readers who enjoy the unconventional are those most likely to enjoy this novel. What might that mean? Well, if you consider talking to squirrels as unconventional, when that happens in the novel, you will not be surprised. There's a large cast of oddball characters and interesting relationships. McKenzie's prose is finely written, and her dialogue is always realistic. There's an exploration of modern striving and consumption	

				in this novel that adds pleasure for those readers who understand Veblen's writing.	
All That Is Solid Melts into Air	McKeon, Darragh	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<a href="#">On the Other Side of Freedom: The Case for Hope</a>	Mckesson, DeRay	*****	<a href="#">12/13/18</a>	<b>Reframing.</b> Civil rights activist DeRay Mckesson's finely written book titled, <a href="#">On the Other Side of Freedom: The Case for Hope</a> , reframes oppression, racism and injustice in ways that explain in a fresh way where we have come from and a path toward improved rights for those who have been left behind. This optimistic book offers powerful personal testimony. Mckesson proudly describes a world in which we all would want to live and offers hope that together we can build that world.	
<a href="#">Deep Economy</a>	McKibben, Bill	*****	<a href="#">June 07</a>	<b>Changes.</b> Our economy built on "more" is leading to environment crises, so author proposes ways to promote sustainability, an economy built on "better."	
<a href="#">Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?</a>	McKibben, Bill	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<a href="#">Radio Free Vermont: A Fable of Resistance</a>	McKibben, Bill	*****	<a href="#">12/7/17</a>	<b>Smaller.</b> Bill McKibben's novel titled, <a href="#">Radio Free Vermont: A Fable of Resistance</a> , is a homage to the resistance movement in the form of a fable. Independent and smaller is presented as better than dependent and larger. This short and playful book brought me a welcome break from the news of the day and the struggles of life. McKibben draws interesting characters, provides an engaging story and brings some laughs along the way.	

<a href="#"><u>The Chain</u></a>	McKinty, Adrian	****	<a href="#"><u>7/26/19</u></a>	<p><b>Diabolical.</b> Fans of action thrillers are those readers most likely to enjoy the clever plot and fast pace of Adrian McKinty's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Chain</u></a>. The life of protagonist Rachel O'Neill seems to finally turn in the right direction, given successful chemotherapy for cancer and completing her divorce from an immature husband. Instead, her thirteen-year-old daughter has been kidnapped. Raising the ransom required was a stretch, but more insidious was the other condition: the requirement that Rachel kidnap someone else's child to continue a long running chain of serial abductions to enrich the diabolical kidnappers. We may think our morality is certain and fixed, but what would most parents do to save one's child? McKinty puts that question before all readers and leaves us with a well-told and memorable story to think about as we ponder what we would do.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Circling the Sun</u></a>	McLain, Paula	****	<a href="#"><u>12/4/15</u></a>	<p><b>Pluck.</b> Fictional accounts of true historical characters can be a bit hit and miss. I find myself wondering which parts are true and which are contrived. While reading Paula McLain's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Circling the Sun</u></a>, I barely gave a thought to that distinction. Beryl Markham lived a full and exciting life in Kenya in the early part of the twentieth century, both as a horse trainer and a pilot. Thanks to McLain's fine writing, the drama of Markham's relationships provides momentum for the plot. Fans of <i>The Paris Wife</i> will be drawn to this book, and many book clubs will find this to be a selection that will lead to animated conversation.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Love and Ruin</u></a>	McLain, Paula	****	<a href="#"><u>5/22/18</u></a>	<p><b>Independent.</b> Paula McLain continues her fiction about the wives of Ernest Hemingway with a novel about his third wife, Martha Gellhorn, in a novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Love and Ruin</u></a>. Martha couldn't be more different from Hemingway's earlier wives: she's a</p>	

				<p>courageous and talented journalist with a successful career. Her independence from Hemingway leads her to escape his shadow. Fans of McLain's historical fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this latest novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Paris Wife</u></a>	McLain, Paula	***	<a href="#"><u>4/9/11</u></a>	<p><b>Feast.</b> Historical fiction about well-known figures can run the risk of verging on the shallow insight level of <i>People</i> magazine or gossip tabloids. Paula McLain's <a href="#"><u>The Paris Wife</u></a> never comes close to falling off that precipice. This lively account of Ernest Hemingway and his first wife, Hadley Richardson, stands well on its own as literary fiction: the account of a complex relationship that provides insight into human behavior. Knowing several of the characters of the novel increases a reader's engagement in the story. McLain enlivens the young Hemingway, his bride Hadley, and makes their life in 1920s Paris seem magical.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Nanny Returns</u></a>	McLaughlin, Emma and Nicola Kraus	**	<a href="#"><u>1/2/10</u></a>	<p><b>Older.</b> Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus' sequel to <i>The Nanny Diaries</i> is titled, <a href="#"><u>Nanny Returns</u></a>. The authors soar in the new novel when they present the ultimate New York City private school: from the heliport to the chandeliers. This school parody also captures the conflicted position of teachers in this context: expected to know everything about each child, whether private or not, and blamed for the child's behavior, no matter what. A whole motif in the book involves Nan's travails in trying to get contractors to renovate her old house, while her husband is usually away on business. That motif provided a backdrop, but had less of the humor of the school parody. The return of the X family was packed with sadness, even as the mighty receive a well-earned comeuppance. Unpacking the lives of unappealing characters and opening the shallowness of their lives, especially as children are expected to behave as adults, and as</p>	

				adults shirk all responsibility, became more grating than either funny or enlightening. <a href="#">Nanny Returns</a> has some moments of biting humor, and a few cogent observations of the lives of the wealthy (like the short sellers' inability to decide on the wall upon which the Chagall he always wanted should hang). Mostly, the book is a collection of episodes held loosely together. I closed the book feeling that I could have spent the time reading it doing almost anything else that would be more enjoyable.	
<a href="#">The Nanny Diaries</a>	McLaughlin, Emma and Nicola Kraus	***	<a href="#">Jun 02</a>	A Park Avenue nanny tells all about the ways she was exploited and a four-year old neglected by the self-centered Mr. and Mrs. X. Sometimes funny, often sad, perspective.	
<a href="#">Bearskin</a>	McLaughlin, James A.	*****	<a href="#">9/5/18</a>	<b>Trifecta.</b> James A. McLaughlin builds three elements simultaneously in his debut novel titled, <a href="#">Bearskin</a> . First, he tells a terrific story that gets better as readers engage with the plot. Second, his descriptive language uses beautiful prose that makes the setting, a remote area in the Virginia mountains, come alive. Finally, he develops a protagonist, Rice Moore, as a complex character who demands solitude and has chosen what he thinks is a perfect hiding place as he works as a caretaker for a large private landholder. Life has a way of disrupting one's plans, and McLaughlin keeps unraveling a story we want to hear as he uses beautiful language and lets Rice develop relationships that lead him to actions with consequences. I loved every minute on the mountain with Rice.	
<a href="#">Saudi America: The Truth About Fracking and How It's</a>	McLean, Bethany	****	<a href="#">1/4/19</a>	<b>Transitions.</b> Financial reporter Bethany McLean has written a compact and engaging book about the energy industry titled, <a href="#">Saudi America: The Truth About Fracking and How It's Changing the World</a> . She describes the transition from what seemed to	

## Changing the World

be “peak oil” in the United States, to the expensive and creative ways in which fracking has reduced reliance on foreign energy sources. McLean tells us about the people, the money, and the science. Whatever you think you know about fracking, read this book, and you’re likely to want to learn even more.

<u>Shaky Ground: The Strange Saga of the U.S. Mortgage Giants</u>	McLean, Bethany	*****	<u>11/20/15</u>	<p><b>Stall.</b> Readers with an interest in housing finance should consider Bethany McLean’s short book titled, <u>Shaky Ground</u>, to be required reading. Using the finely honed investigative skills she developed at Fortune, especially on examining Enron, McLean looks into the stalled resolution of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. These government sponsored entities have been in conservatorship since 2008, and there seems to be no progress on resolving what to do with them next. The result is a housing finance system that rests on shaky ground because of the dominant reliance on these companies to support homeownership. McLean views the situation from multiple perspectives and explains the stalemate and stall in resolution with pragmatic empathy. She joins many others in not seeing a way to get off this shaky ground.</p>	
The Smartest Guys in the Room: The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron	McLean, Bethany	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2004	
<u>All the Devils Are Here: The Hidden History of the Financial Crisis</u>	McLean, Bethany and Joe Nocera	***	<u>12/18/10</u>	<p><b>People.</b> Financial journalists Bethany McLean and Joe Nocera move the dialogue about the financial crisis from what happened to who were the people who were in the thick of this and what led them to do what they did. Their new book, <u>All the Devils Are Here</u>, is the product of ample interviews, and reading the many published accounts that have</p>	



				already been produced. The result is a readable and interesting presentation of the people involved and their motivations, incentives and flaws. Readers who have been interested in the financial crisis will find this book to be a valuable contribution to gaining an understanding of who was involved in the crisis.	
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[The Good Detective](#)

McMahon, John

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



Physical: An American Checkup	McManus, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
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[The Interruption of Everything](#)

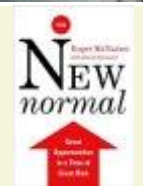
McMillan, Terry

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[Nov 05](#)

**Pause.** Sixth novel featuring strong women. This time, protagonist Marilyn Grimes, a middle aged African American woman faces the challenges presented by caregiving, a workaholic husband and changes to her body.



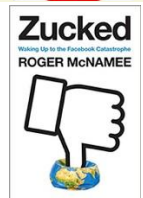
<a href="#"><u>The New Normal</u></a>	McNamee, Roger	**	<a href="#"><u>May 05</u></a>	<b>Munchies.</b> Tidbits <i>a la Fast Company</i> , full of definitive statements, with no articulated basis for the conclusions drawn. More junk food than balanced diet.	
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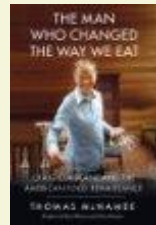
[Zucked: Waking Up to the Facebook Catastrophe](#)


McNamee, Roger


Unread

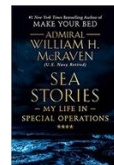
Shelf of Ennui 2020.



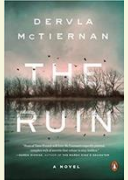
The Man Who Changed the Way We Eat: Craig Claiborne and the American Food Renaissance	McNamee, Thomas	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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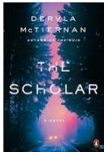
<a href="#">The Patch</a>	McPhee, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
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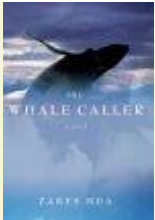
<a href="#">Hallowed Ground: A Walk at Gettysburg</a>	McPherson, James M.	***	<a href="#">Aug 03</a>	<b>Pulitzer Docent.</b> A well-informed compact guide to what happened and where during the battle of Gettysburg. Ideal for pleasure readers.	
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<a href="#">Sea Stories: My Life in Special Operations</a>	McRaven, William H.	****	<a href="#">9/13/19</a>	<b>Iterative.</b> Retired US Navy Admiral William H. McRaven has written a terrific book titled, <a href="#">Sea Stories: My Life in Special Operations</a> , about the thirty-seven years he served as a Navy SEAL. Each anecdote builds on the prior one in some form or another, supporting the iterative process of building on past experience. I recall talking to one of my bosses many years ago who was apprehensive about an important meeting. I calmed him with the reminder that all kinds of experiences brought him toward this meeting, and he is as prepared as he could possibly be. McRaven's life was one layer of experiences built on another, and by the time a reader reaches the story of the raid that killed Osama bin Laden, we know how he will approach this mission. Most readers will finish this book offering thanks to McRaven and the thousands of	
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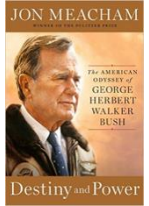
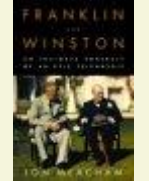
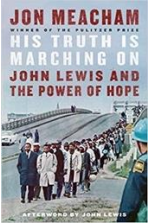
others whose valuable service deserves recognition and gratitude.

<a href="#"><u>The Ruin</u></a>	McTiernan, Dervla	****	<a href="#"><u>10/25/19</u></a>	<p><b>Links.</b> The debut novel by Dervla McTiernan is titled, <a href="#"><u>The Ruin</u></a>. Set in Galway, the novel links two cases of detective Cormac Reilly: the recent death of Jack Blake, and two decades earlier when as a rookie policeman he met Jack with sister Maude at the death of their mother. Sure in Ireland the past is always present and the ghosts never go away. Fans of crime fiction will find the cases compelling, the characters interesting, and the writing satisfying.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>The Scholar</u></a>	McTiernan, Dervla	****	<a href="#"><u>12/16/19</u></a>	<p><b>Galway.</b> The second novel in the Cormac Reilly series by Dervla McTiernan is titled, <a href="#"><u>The Scholar</u></a>. The work lives of Cormac and his girlfriend, Dr. Emma Sweeney, intersect at the beginning of this novel after Emma finds a body at Galway University and calls Cormac who's the first officer to arrive on the scene. As an investigation and mystery case develops, McTiernan pulls us back to observe her writing with admiration as she taps into the doubts and insecurities faced by many characters. Fans of crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>The Whale Caller</u></a>	Mda, Zakes	***	<a href="#"><u>Apr 06</u></a>	<p><b>Fishy.</b> May be the most unusual novel of the year: a story of a love triangle between a whale, the man who plays tunes to her on a kelp horn, and the town drunk. Set on the west coast of South Africa. Memorable and strange.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation</u></a>	Meacham, Jon	***	<a href="#"><u>Oct 06</u></a>	<p><b>Tolerance.</b> Author explores the premise that the key success of the American revolution has been religious tolerance combined with the separation of church and state. Much insight on what religion meant for the founders and for politicians throughout our history.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House</u></a>	Meacham, Jon	*****	<a href="#"><u>3/28/09</u></a>	<b>Executive.</b> There seemed to be few dull moments during President Andrew Jackson's White House years, and thanks to Jon Meacham's fine writing in <a href="#"><u>American Lion</u></a> , there are few dull pages to read about that time. The hero of the Battle of New Orleans found all the main issues of the day ending up on his White House desk, and he followed a guiding principle of setting the issues of the nation first in resolving them, never losing the pulse of the will of the common citizen. He refused to cower to Congress, and ensured a strong Executive branch. He fought Calhoun and nullification. The strains of slavery and succession weighed heavily on Jackson, and he did the best he could to keep the union intact. The writing is lively throughout the 500 pages, and thanks to Meacham, every time I look at a twenty dollar bill I think something different about Jackson.	
<a href="#"><u>Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush</u></a>	Meacham, Jon	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship	Meacham, Jon	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2004	
<a href="#"><u>His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope</u></a>	Meacham, Jon	*****	<a href="#"><u>12/9/20</u></a>	<b>Beloved.</b> No matter how much you think you know about the late John Lewis, you're likely to learn something new about him after reading Jon Meacham's book titled, <a href="#"><u>His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope</u></a> . From his early life in rural Alabama preaching to chickens through his service in the United States House of Representatives, you'll learn about all the different	

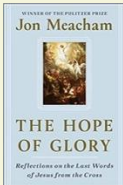
kinds of good trouble this beloved man got into in a full life of service to others. Against powerful forces, especially in the struggle for civil rights, Lewis maintained a steady focus on ideals and values, not wavering from taking the next step toward achieving a more perfect union.

[The Hope and the Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross](#)

Meacham, Jon

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



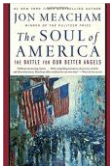
[The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels](#)

Meacham, Jon

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[10/5/18](#)

**Context.** For American citizens weary of partisan divisiveness, one book to consider is Jon Meacham's titled, [The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels](#). We've been divided in the past in ways more severe than our current situation and have leaned toward our core values to come together. Historians help provide context for us to understand where we have come from, and how to consider current challenges in relation to how we have responded to past divisions. Meacham writes with love for the United States and with hope that our future will be less contentious than the present. Take a break from the headlines to reflect on our core values and consider how those values can lead us toward reconciliation and unity.



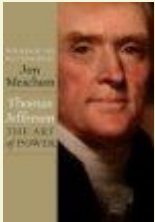
[Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power](#)

Meacham, Jon

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[5/21/13](#)

**Contradictions.** I've slowly savored reading Jon Meacham's fine book, [Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power](#). Many of us know well the highlights of Jefferson's life. Meacham left me with several reflections about Jefferson: he had a vision for America that was at times in sync and at other times misaligned with that of other founders; he seemed to be comfortable in holding multiple contradictory views (slavery being the greatest contradiction); and his legacy is so large that



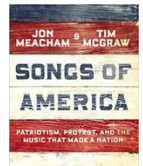
				reflecting on it by reading a book like this is time very well spent. Any reader with an interest in the formation years of the United States will enjoy reading this book.	
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Songs of America: Patriotism, Protest, and the Music That Made a Nation

Meacham, Jon and Tim McGraw

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

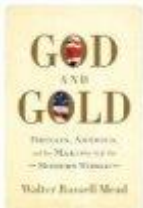


God and Gold: Britain, America, and the Making of the Modern World

Mead, Walter Russell

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

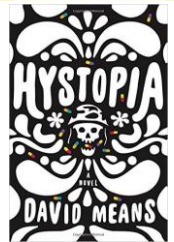


Hystopia

Means, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.

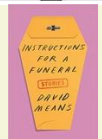


Instructions for a Funeral

Means, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

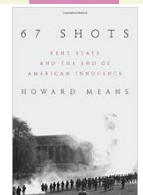


67 Shots: Kent State and the End of American Innocence

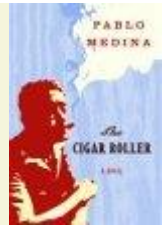



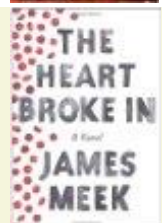
Means, Howard

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Shelf of Ennui 2016.





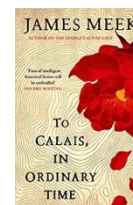
The Cigar Roller	Medina, Pablo	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<a href="#">This Could Hurt</a>	Medoff, Jillian	***	<a href="#">2/22/18</a>	<p><b>Human.</b> In her novel titled, <a href="#">This Could Hurt</a>, Jillian Medoff puts the “human” in Human Resources. Workplace novels can often lean toward shallow and boring stereotypes. While Medoff veers in that direction sometimes in this novel, for the most part she creates interesting and complex characters who behave in ways, both good and bad, that will resonate for most readers. Set mostly during the financial crisis in 2008 and 2009, the novel offers a plot that fits that time very well. Each character has to respond to change, like it or not.</p>	
The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI	Medsker, Betty	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<a href="#">How Elizabeth Barrett Browning Saved My Life</a>	Medwed, Mameve	***	<a href="#">July 06</a>	<p><b>Belonging.</b> Witty and charming novel of a protagonist who's shaken from lethargy by her mother's death, and searches for and finds the objects of her desire, and her place in the world.</p>	
The Heart Broke In	Meek, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	

[To Calais, In Ordinary Time](#)

Meek, James

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.

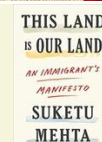


[This Land Is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto](#)

Mehta, Suketu

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



[A Family Daughter](#)

Meloy, Maile

\*\*\*\*

[Oct 06](#)

**Fragility.** Author reprises the Santerres from her debut novel [Liars and Saints](#), using this novel to take the perspective of a daughter, Abby, on the fragility of the many family members, their secrets and passions.



[Both Ways Is the Only Way I Want It](#)

Meloy, Maile

\*\*\*

[9/21/09](#)

**Desire.** There are eleven finely written short stories in Maile Meloy's new collection titled, [Both Ways Is the Only Way I Want It](#). One theme through these stories is the desire of an individual for more than he or she seems to have now or is experiencing. Sometimes those desires are realized, often they are not. Meloy presents real people in relationships that most readers will recognize. Her writing presents just the right amount of conflict among her characters to allow her to use the short story form effectively and not waste a single word.



[Do Not Become Alarmed](#)

Meloy, Maile

\*\*\*\*

[7/20/17](#)

**Perils.** Don't read Maile Meloy's novel titled, [Do Not Become Alarmed](#), while on vacation with children. A normal anxiety level about what could happen to children can become extreme while reading about the perils faced by the children in this novel who have been enjoying a cruise to Central America with their parents. A land excursion during a port stop turns perilous and the unraveling of the children and their parents absorbs every remaining page of the novel. Meloy's



prose is finely written, and her insight into human behavior will please many readers.

**Family Ties and Lies.** Rare for a debut novel to win four-stars. This tale of four generations and the lies that unite them should win awards. Meloy's writing soars, and we come to know her characters for all their human qualities and frailties.



[Liars and Saints](#)

Meloy, Maile

\*\*\*\*

[July 03](#)

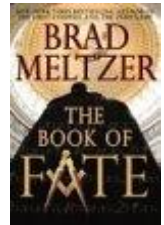
[The Book of Fate](#)

Meltzer, Brad

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[Nov 06](#)

**Loyalty.** Political thriller with Presidential aide protagonist and lots of pages of step by step action. Good for in-flight reading or a mind-free weekend.



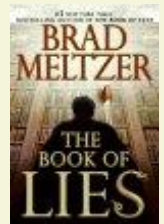
[The Book of Lies](#)

Meltzer, Brad

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[12/27/08](#)

**Super.** Brad Meltzer's latest novel, [The Book of Lies](#), takes readers on a somewhat convoluted journey from Cleveland to the biblical story of Cain and Abel, with lots of work in the middle centered on the relationship between fathers and sons. Protagonist Cal Harper is a former government agent and current advocate for the homeless. One night he encounters a homeless man who turns out to be his estranged father, Lloyd. Before we know it, they're on a journey to Cleveland to the former home of Jerry Seigel, the creator of Superman, whose father was killed when Jerry was a boy. They're searching for a missing book, The Book of Lies, which may have the answer to what weapon Cain used to kill Abel, and what might have been the genesis of the Superman comic. With a nod to Dan Brown and the Da Vinci code genre, [The Book of Lies](#) provides a few hours of entertainment for those readers who can leap across the many chasms in the plot.



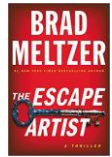
[The Escape Artist](#)

Meltzer, Brad

\*\*

[5/22/18](#)

**Strained.** I tried very hard to suspend disbelief while reading Brad Meltzer's novel titled, [The Escape Artist](#). Whether it was my failure to cut Meltzer slack or his straining credulity at almost every key plot turn, the outcome was my reading a novel that I never came to enjoy. On the positive side, protagonist Nola Brown was a very interesting character. The Houdini connection was fascinating. Those two elements were not sufficient for me to overcome a plot that strained all credulity multiple times.



[The Fifth Assassin](#)

Meltzer, Brad

\*\*\*\*

[2/9/13](#)

**Pacing.** Brad Meltzer reprises The Culper Ring from previous novels for his latest book, [The Fifth Assassin](#). First-time Meltzer readers are likely to be confused and frustrated, but fans of the series can use the earlier novels as a solid foundation for understanding the characters and motivation in the new novel. I found his pacing to be rapid, and my interest remained engaged and focused through 432 pages. Meltzer left enough uncovered for another installment. Readers who are willing to suspend disbelief for this imaginative plot are rewarded by a fast moving thriller.



[The First Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill George Washington](#)

Meltzer, Brad

\*\*\*\*

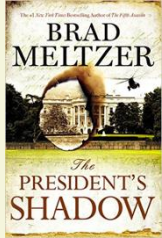

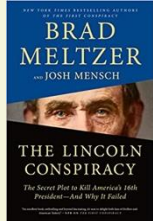
[11/9/19](#)

**Spies.** In a pause from writing fiction, prolific novelist Brad Meltzer paired up with researcher Josh Mensch to write an engaging work of non-fiction titled, [The First Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill George Washington](#). Meltzer takes us to New York during the American Revolution and the shifting loyalties between those supporting the English monarchy and those in revolt for independence. While Washington tries to train and equip a ragtag group of soldiers into a fighting force, there are active plans to take out Washington himself. Plenty of historians have written about what a close-run thing the Revolutionary War was. Meltzer adds this book as another easy read that



describes true stories of that era that will enlighten and entertain readers.

<a href="#"><u>The House of Secrets</u></a>	Meltzer, Brad	***	<a href="#"><u>9/9/16</u></a>	<p><b>Recovery.</b> There were times while I was reading Brad Meltzer's novel, <a href="#"><u>The House of Secrets</u></a>, that I felt like I was riding a roller coaster. The plot sped up and crashed before slowly building to the next twist. Protagonist Hazel-Ann Nash is trying to recover memories following an accident in which she and her brother were injured and her father, Jack, killed. Jack was the longtime host of a conspiracy television program, <i>The House of Secrets</i>. She struggles to regain her lost memories, and tries to differentiate between reality and imagination. There's a link to Benedict Arnold at the heart of this novel, and stories that Jack told Hazel-Ann as a child provide clues to making sense of the present. Patient readers will be rewarded by the end with unraveling a complicated plot. Impatient readers may find easier entertainment elsewhere.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Inner Circle</u></a>	Meltzer, Brad	***	<a href="#"><u>1/25/11</u></a>	<p><b>Secrets.</b> Brad Meltzer's latest thriller, <a href="#"><u>The Inner Circle</u></a>, presents readers with an action-packed plot, an imaginative premise and weakly developed characters. For fans of action novels, this one places few demands on a reader's mental acuity; one can sit back, turn pages swiftly and let the action unfold. The imaginative premise is that a secret group has existed for centuries providing support to the United States Presidency. Since few secrets in Washington seem to last minutes, the notion that a big one could survive centuries requires a reader to suspend a great deal of disbelief. The action carries a reader forward, and even after over 450 pages, there's room for the story to continue, so a sequel may well be coming soon.</p>	

<a href="#"><u>The President's Shadow</u></a>	Meltzer, Brad	****	<a href="#"><u>1/15/16</u></a>	<p><b>Secrets.</b> Readers who are pre-disposed to the idea that the Presidency and Washington D.C. are overflowing with secrets and conspiracies are those most likely to enjoy reading the third installment in The Culper Ring series by Brad Meltzer titled, <a href="#"><u>The President's Shadow</u></a>. Over the course of four hundred pages, Meltzer blends some facts with fiction to create an impression that no one is ever to be trusted. Having read the earlier novels, I enjoyed the reprisal of characters, and I was inclined to surrender myself to Meltzer's plot. I was entertained enough, thanks to letting myself yield to where Meltzer took me, no matter how implausible it seemed.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Zero Game</u></a>	Meltzer, Brad	***	<a href="#"><u>Apr 04</u></a>	<p><b>Zooms.</b> Fast-paced thriller with better writing than Baldacci. Well-crafted plot and realistic dialogue. D.C. players will be especially entertained.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Lincoln Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill America's 16th President--and Why It Failed</u></a>	Meltzer, Brad and Josh Mensch	****	<a href="#"><u>12/17/20</u></a>	<p><b>Gripping.</b> If you avoid reading history because you find it dull, consider picking up a copy of a book titled, <a href="#"><u>The Lincoln Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill America's 16th President--and Why It Failed</u></a>, by novelist Brad Meltzer and historian Josh Mensch. The book tells the story of a plot by a Baltimore secret society to kill Abraham Lincoln on his journey by train to Washington, DC in 1861 to assume the duties of the United States Presidency. I had never heard of this plot before, so I found the narrative gripping to read and was excited to find out something new about Abraham Lincoln. An added bonus involves the way Allan Pinkerton was involved, how he kept the secret, and that he employed a woman to play a key role in protecting Mr. Lincoln.</p>	



[Aloha, Lady Blue](#)

Memminger,  
Charley

\*\*\*\*

[10/25/13](#)

**Setting.** I was thoroughly entertained by Charley Memminger's mystery novel, [Aloha Lady Blue](#). Any reader who's enjoyed John D. MacDonald's novels should read this book. While neither a homage nor strict imitation, this novel is in the spirit of MacDonald, and Memminger makes that even clearer when we learn the name of the houseboat on which protagonist Stryker McBride lives: the Travis McGee. The setting in Hawaii comes alive through Memminger's descriptive language. If you're looking for something to read on the flight from the mainland to Hawaii, you can't do better than this novel.



[My Mistake](#)

Menaker, Daniel

\*\*\*\*

[3/7/14](#)

**Eloquent.** Readers who enjoy fine writing will find plenty in Daniel Menaker's memoir, [My Mistake](#). His sentences are composed perfectly in what appears effortless. Always choosing just the right word (which I appreciated even more with the half dozen I looked up), Menaker offers a light touch that kept me engaged and entertained from beginning to end. He finds a way to be witty even when discussing illness and death. His introspection comes across as self-deprecating as reflected in the title. Having spent decades working at *The New Yorker* then at publishing houses, Menaker offers a front row view of aspects of life in literary New York. I found his eloquence delightful to read.



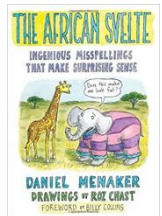
[The African Svelte: Ingenious Misspellings That Make Surprising Sense](#)

Menaker, Daniel  
and Roz Chast


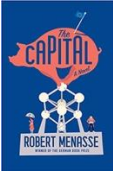
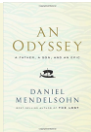
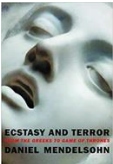

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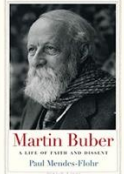
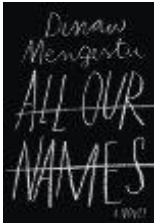
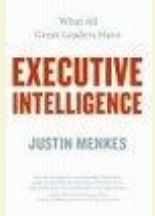


[11/27/16](#)

**Words.** I laughed very often while reading [The African Svelte: Ingenious Misspellings That Make Surprising Sense](#) by Daniel Menaker, and laughed again while viewing Roz Chast's illustrations for the book. Linguistic errors give editors plenty of work to do, and a respite from that chore can be the delight found in the error that works. Any reader who loves words, especially the carefully chosen



perfect ones, will find dozens of new darlings to love in this book.

The Marketplace of Ideas: Reform and Resistance in the American University	Menand, Lewis	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<u>The Capital</u>	Menasse, Robert	*****	<u>4/23/20</u>	<p><b>Pigs.</b> Robert Menasse presents readers with an astute take on the tension between nationalism and union in Europe in his novel titled, <u>The Capital</u>. Set in Brussels, we get to enjoy the dysfunction of the bureaucracy, in which Auschwitz is selected as the best location for a celebration, and pigs take center stage in the plot. While comic in many respects, the novel helps readers reflect on the importance of those institutions that can bridge our differences. We need novels like this one to hold up for us our absurdities and lead us to think about what's important.</p>	
<u>An Odyssey: A Father, a Son and an Epic</u>	Mendelsohn, Daniel	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<u>Ecstasy and Terror: From the Greeks to Game of Thrones</u>	Mendelsohn, Daniel	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
The Things That Matter	Mendelson, Edward	*		Read, but not reviewed.	

<a href="#"><u>Same Same</u></a>	Mendelsund, Peter	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<a href="#"><u>Martin Buber: A Life of Faith and Dissent</u></a>	Mendes-Flohr, Paul	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
All Our Names	Mengestu, Dinaw	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
Executive Intelligence	Menkes, Justin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<a href="#"><u>The Enigma of Reason</u></a>	Mercier, Hugo and Dan Sperber	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
The Elephant and the Dragon	Meredith, Robyn	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	

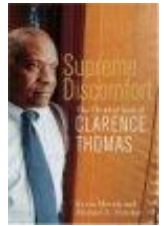
Supreme Discomfort : The Divided Soul of Clarence Thomas

Merida, Kevin and Michael Fletcher

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Apr 08

**Conflicted.** Readers don't learn much about Thomas' jurisprudence in this book, but come away with many examples and illustrations of the life of a complex and conflicted person.

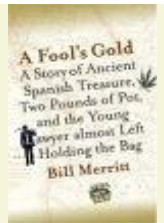


A Fool's Gold

Merritt, Bill

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



American Savior: A Novel of Divine Politics

Merullo, Roland

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10/24/09

**WWJD.** If you love satire, and can tolerate the use of Jesus as a fictional character who runs for president, you will find a lot of laughs on the pages of Roland Merullo's book, American Savior: A Novel of Divine Politics. Satire can be risky, and Merullo uses the media as the best target of his biting wit. The names Merullo uses for the media stars requires little translation to identify the subject of his lampooning. An extra layer of reading pleasure comes from the manner in which the narrator, Russ Thomas, a reporter for a western Massachusetts television station, reflects on what the campaign of Jesus means for Russ himself.

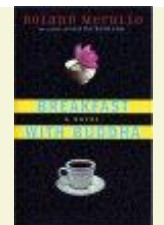


Breakfast with Buddha

Merullo, Roland

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

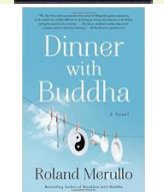


Dinner with Buddha


Merullo, Roland


Unread

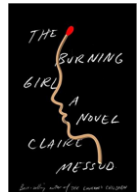
Shelf of Ennui 2015.



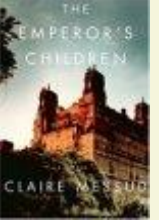
The Italian Summer: Golf, Food, and Family at Lake Como	Merullo, Roland	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
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<u>Vatican Waltz</u>	Merullo, Roland	***	<u>2/20/14</u>	<p><b>Prayer.</b> Most fiction writers ask for our willing suspension of disbelief while the narrative of a novel unfolds. From the beginning to the end of his novel, <u>Vatican Waltz</u>, Roland Merullo tested my ability to maintain that suspension. Protagonist Cynthia Piantedosi is a single devout Catholic who prays daily and has on occasion intense spiritual experiences that her family members have called “spells.” The intensity of her prayer brings her a message from God: she is called to become a priest. Merullo proceeds to develop this theme from Revere, Massachusetts to Rome, packing the novel with lengthy descriptive language of Cynthia’s surroundings in almost every setting. Like most readers, I was surprised and taken aback by the unexpected ending, and closed the novel with my disbelief intact, no longer in a somewhat willing suspension.</p>	
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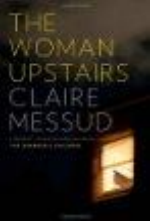
Summer Doorways	Merwin, W.S.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
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<u>The Burning Girl</u>	Messud, Claire	****	<u>9/18/17</u>	<p><b>Friendship.</b> Some long-term friendships endure and others dissolve. Claire Messud explores the friendship between Julia and Cassie in a novel titled, <u>The Burning Girl</u>. Following a summer during which the adolescent girls were inseparable, they return to school and drift apart. Using finely</p>	
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written prose, vividly descriptive language and mood setting narrative, Messud explores this change and the ways in which secrets and what is not known can be what is essential. The novel explores alienation and does so with great skill.

<a href="#"><u>The Emperor's Children</u></a>	Messud, Claire	***	<a href="#"><u>Nov 06</u></a>	<b>Longings.</b> Pretense dominates a small set of privileged characters in New York City in the six months before and two months after 9/11. By the end, they get what they want or what they deserve.	
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**Anger.** Claire Messud's gift to readers of her novel, [The Woman Upstairs](#), is that of one of the most expertly developed characters in contemporary literature. Nora Eldridge is not everywoman, but she is a complete woman and Messud creates her with insight and skill. Messud understands emotional depth, and the emotion that fuels Nora is anger. Women are expected to swallow their anger, and be nice at all costs. Unmarried at age 42 and working as a successful and beloved elementary school teacher, Nora seems to be the epitome of what the title refers to: the invisible and unassuming neighbor who is reliable and unthreatening. With great skill, Messud presents the authentic Nora, whose anger envelops her life. Any reader with empathy for the lives of contemporary American middle aged women will want to read and talk about this novel.

<a href="#"><u>The Woman Upstairs</u></a>	Messud, Claire	*****	<a href="#"><u>6/6/13</u></a>		
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Against the Country	Metcalf, Ben	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
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Finding Again  
the World:  
Selected Stories

Metcalf, John

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



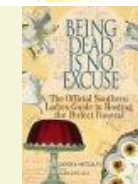
Being Dead Is  
No Excuse

Metcalf, Gayden  
and Charlotte  
Hays

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Oct 05

**Recipe.** Loaded with laughs about Southern funeral customs, especially the reception, and mouths will water reading some of the recipes for appropriate and expected funeral reception food.



The Tragic Age

Metcalf,  
Stephen

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



Island Tempest

Mewshaw,  
Michael

\*\*

Apr 05

**Revenge.** Deposed CEO executes revenge against board chair and other colleagues on Eden, a resort island off the Florida coast. Big assist comes from paraplegic neighbor in the federal witness protection program.



A Term at the  
Fed

Meyer, Laurence  
H.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



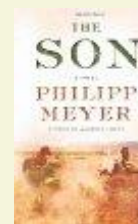
The Son

Meyer, Philipp

\*\*\*\*\*

7/26/13

**Texas.** There's more than enough summer left for readers to savor one of those big satisfying novels that involve lots of characters over many decades. Philipp Meyer's novel, The Son, is as big as Texas itself and covers pioneers, Indians, Mexicans, oil barons, ranchers and enough plot and descriptive language to bring every person, place and time period to life. Meyer moves forward and backward in time, and that added to my enjoyment of the novel. He mines the richness of close family relationships and the tensions that exist in all



families. He uses the history of the setting to present life as it was lived. Just about every dimension of human behavior, from the very worst to the very best, are covered in the novel, and even after almost six hundred pages, I was hungry for more while I was sated with all I read.

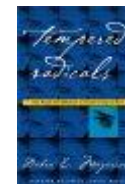
Tempered Radicals: How People Use Difference to Inspire Change at Work

Meyerson, Debra E.

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Feb 02

Some people who don't "fit" into organizations take actions that lead to significant change. Good research and analysis by Stanford professor. Helps executives think differently about diversity.



House of Debt: How They (and You) Caused the Great Recession, and How We Can Prevent It from Happening Again

Mian, Atif and Sufi Amir

\*\*\*\*

11/7/14

**Radical.** If your mortgage is underwater, you may become even more depressed after reading Atif Mian and Sufi Amir's book titled, House of Debt: How They (and You) Caused the Great Recession, and How We Can Prevent It from Happening Again. The authors' key point is that the financial crisis of 2008 came about because there was too much debt taken on by Americans. They assemble ample data to support their presentation, and offer possible ways to prevent this from happening again, including what they call the "shared responsibility mortgage." While I found this to be an engaging book that readers interested in public policy, especially housing policy, will enjoy reading, the analysis presents a focused point of view that may exclude other perspectives, and their solutions are likely to be viewed as radical. Nonetheless, this is another good contribution to the discussion of what happened and what should be done differently.



The Trouble with Diversity

Michaels, Walter Benn

\*\*\*

Feb 07

**Class.** The growing gap between rich and poor and that social cost is ignored while the free aspects of supporting diversity become universal. Author claims inequality, not racial or cultural differences, should be the focus of our political agenda.



<a href="#"><u>The Starbucks Experience</u></a>	Michelli, Joseph	***	<a href="#"><u>May 07</u></a>	<b>Espresso.</b> Consultant studied Starbucks' success and derives and illustrates five principles that led to that success. Interesting stories of people at work.	
<a href="#"><u>The Patient's Playbook: How to Save Your Life and the Lives of Those You Love</u></a>	Michelson, Leslie D.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<a href="#"><u>One Magical Sunday</u></a>	Mickelson, Phil	**	<a href="#"><u>Sep 05</u></a>	<b>Nice.</b> Hole by hole recap of 2004 Masters, Mickelson's first major tournament win, along with family stories. Nice, hardworking guys sometimes finish first.	
<a href="#"><u>The Company: A Short History of a Revolutionary Idea</u></a>	Micklethwait, John	***	<a href="#"><u>June 03</u></a>	<b>Company Brief.</b> Breezy explanation and history of where companies came from and the consequent benefits to society of this revolutionary structure. Great respite from corporate scandal stories.	
<a href="#"><u>The Fourth Revolution: The Global Race to Reinvent the State</u></a>	Micklethwait, John and Adrian Wooldridge	*****	<a href="#"><u>7/18/14</u></a>	<b>Innovation.</b> Readers who enjoy the clear thinking and pithy prose of <i>The Economist</i> are those most likely to enjoy reading <a href="#"><u>The Fourth Revolution</u></a> by John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge. The authors tackle the question of the role of the state and affirm the importance of a well-run state. They propose that innovation can reform those parts of the state that are dysfunctional, and restore the value that all citizens receive. If there's only one public policy book you read this year, make it this one.	

October: The  
Story of the  
Russian  
Revolution

Mieville, China

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



The Last Days of  
New Paris

Mieville, China

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11/18/16

**Surreal.** I'm as prepared as the next guy to suspend my disbelief willingly when reading fiction. China Mieville tested my willingness severely in his novel titled, The Last Days of New Paris. Mieville sets the novel in Paris during and after World War II, and in his alternative reality, the Nazis are fighting Surrealist phantoms. Some of the demons seem to be real ones straight from hell. Perhaps because I don't care for surrealism in two dimensions, I can't appreciate the art when presented in three dimensions. I stuck to the end of this novel for two reasons: it's brief and I was impressed by the creativity and interesting writing. Readers with a greater appreciation of art than mine are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.



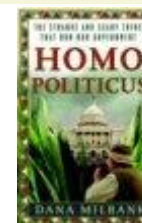
Homo Politicus:  
The Strange and  
Scary Tribes  
that Run Our  
Government

Milbank, Dana

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Apr 08

**Witty.** Milbank uses the structure of anthropological fieldwork to poke fun at the exploits of all in politics who take themselves far too seriously and whose exploits cause the rest of us to roar with laughter or cry in desperation.



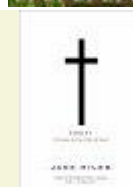
Christ: A Crisis  
in the Life of  
God

Miles, Jack

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Mar 02

If you liked Miles' Pulitzer prize winning God: A Biography, you're likely to enjoy this sequel that takes a literary perspective on the New Testament.



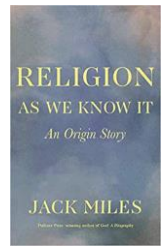
[Religion As We Know It](#)

Miles, Jack

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[2/14/20](#)

**Brief.** Jack Miles has written a lot about religion, and his latest book titled, [Religion As We Know It](#), may be the briefest and most accessible. While he points readers toward *The Norton Anthology of World Religions*, for which he is general editor, it seemed to me that he's using this little book to include things he couldn't write in the anthology. Readers with a general interest in religion are those most likely to enjoy this book.



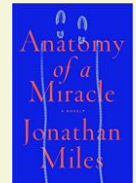
[Anatomy of a Miracle](#)

Miles, Jonathan

\*\*\*\*

[12/13/18](#)

**Truth.** The clever structure of Jonathan Miles' novel titled, [Anatomy of a Miracle](#), supports the theme of his story. While fiction, the appearance and structure make the book seem to be a journalist's report about real people and events. Four years after protagonist Cameron Harris returns to Biloxi, Mississippi as a paraplegic from a war injury, he unexpectedly gets up from his wheelchair and walks. What has happened? Is this a medical recovery or a miracle? Questions follow, along with celebrity and the uncovering of secrets. Miles captures the energy of our time in this novel leading all readers to wonder about the nature of truth, and how we know what is true.



Dear American Airlines

Miles, Jonathan

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Read, but not reviewed.



[Dear American Airlines](#)

Miles, Jonathan

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[10/24/09](#)

**Remorse.** Jonathan Miles' novel, [Dear American Airlines](#), is quirky, odd and erudite at the same time. The novel is structured in part as a lengthy complaint letter narrated in the first person by the writer, Benjamin R. Ford (Bennie) to the airline to demand a refund for the flight delay that may cause him to miss his daughter's wedding. A recovering alcoholic, Bennie reflects with remorse about his



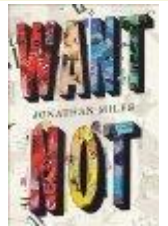
			life and the disappointment he feels at choices he made. Instead of becoming a poet, he's a translator, and part of the novel he's translating from Polish is injected into this narrative. Miles' writing skill appears most strongly in his language and perfect word selection. I found the structure of the novel to be a distraction, and Bennie became more of an unwanted seatmate on a flight, than someone I wanted in my life. While I laughed at times, I closed the book and stared at it for while after I finished, thinking: what was that?	
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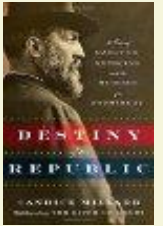
Want Not

Miles, Jonathan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



<u>Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President</u>	Millard, Candice	*****	<u>10/29/12</u>	<b>Harm.</b> It's a rare work of non-fiction that can appeal simultaneously to those who love history, medicine, science, politics and a well-told story. Candice Millard pleases readers of all types in her book, <u>Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President</u> . She presents the shooting of President James Garfield and his treatment by physicians who did more harm than good. Alexander Graham Bell works day and night to invent a device that aid in Garfield's treatment. Millard maintains momentum as she presents this lively, interesting and entertaining story, packed with details but never tedious. I learned much about Garfield and the practice of medicine in 1881.	
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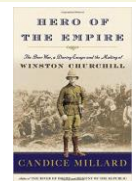
Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape, and the Making

Millard, Candice

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2/3/17

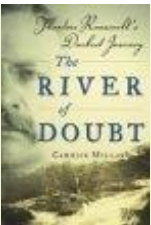
**Ambition.** Tens of thousands of pages have been written by and about Winston Churchill, and a general reader may wonder whether a single sliver of his life will be worth taking the time to read. My answer is an overwhelming "yes," should you






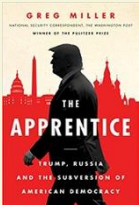



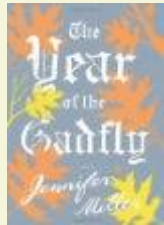

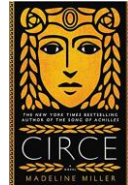
of Winston Churchill

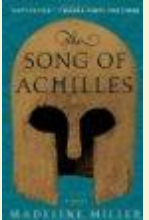
choose Candice Millard’s finely written book titled, Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape, and the Making of Winston Churchill. The Boer War came at a formative time in Churchill’s life and his raw ambition to make a name for himself during this war comes through with great clarity, thanks to Millard’s fine writing. She tells an engaging story, and highlights those key elements that convey the depth and complexity of Winston Churchill. Anyone who enjoys reading history that’s well-written and with any interest at all in Winston Churchill will likely find hours of pleasure while reading this book.

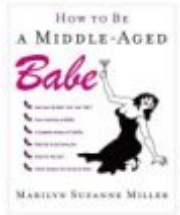
<u>The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey</u>	Millard, Candice	***	<u>Mar 06</u>	<b>Perilous.</b> Gripping account of 1914 journey on an uncharted South American river that nearly killed President Theodore Roosevelt.	
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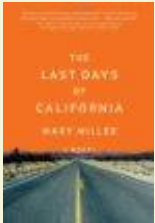
<u>Snowdrops</u>	Miller, A.D.	**	<u>4/22/11</u>	<b>Swindles.</b> The plot of A.D. Miller’s debut novel, <u>Snowdrops</u> , became so predictable that I found my mind wandering about ways in which I could have made the events unravel in a more interesting way. Set in Russia, a cast of characters led by British lawyer Nick Platt, meander in the madness that was (is?) Moscow as it embraces capitalism. The subject of the novel is property crime, and the appeal to readers is how lust can overcome all sense. The swindles are straight forward, and the fact that Nick found this experience to be one of self-discovery will appeal to those readers, perhaps lawyers, who are patient with tedium. This may also appeal to those readers who are willing to give debut novelists a try.	
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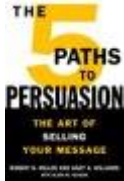
<a href="#"><u>The Crossing</u></a>	Miller, Andrew	*****	<a href="#"><u>4/12/17</u></a>	<p><b>Motherhood.</b> Our lives can change in an instant. For Maud, the protagonist of Andrew Miller's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Crossing</u></a>, her life changes in ways that few readers will ever experience. At the same time, her life is our life: a story of survival and doing all we can to do what the next right thing seems to be. Miller's prose is outstanding, and the complexity of Maud will delight those readers who appreciate literary fiction. There's a theme of motherhood that ties parts of the novel together, and book club members may find this novel will make an ideal selection for a conversation about the ways in which women as mothers become transformed. Maud's journey in this novel, especially on her boat, focused my complete attention on her response to suffering. Maud's strength becomes revealed in dramatic ways in this novel, and Miller's writing skills kept me entertained from beginning to end.</p>	
Supreme City: How Jazz Age Manhattan Gave Birth to Modern America	Miller, Donald L.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<a href="#"><u>The Apprentice: Trump, Russia and the Subversion of American Democracy</u></a>	Miller, Greg	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Freedom's Child	Miller, Jax	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

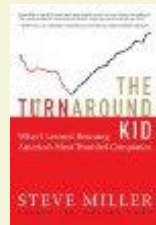
<a href="#"><u>The Year of the Gadfly</u></a>	Miller, Jennifer	***	<a href="#"><u>7/16/12</u></a>	<p><b>Fresh.</b> I opened Jennifer Miller's debut novel, <a href="#"><u>The Year of the Gadfly</u></a>, with the expectation that I would quickly lose interest. Instead, I found her writing to be engaging, and the characters, setting and plot imaginative and absorbing. Set in a Massachusetts prep school named Mariana Academy, Miller alternates between the present and 1999. She uses multiple narrators to build perspective. Several of the characters don't blend easily into the high school environment, and Miller explores the consequences of being different. Readers who like discovering a fresh fictional voice are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
Our oldest enemy : a history of America's disastrous relationship with France	Miller, John J. and Mark Molesky	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<a href="#"><u>Germes: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War</u></a>	Miller, Judith	*****	<a href="#"><u>Jan 02</u></a>	A comprehensive investigative story about the development of biological weapons that have the power to destroy all human life.	
<a href="#"><u>Circe</u></a>	Miller, Madeline	*****	<a href="#"><u>10/12/18</u></a>	<p><b>Perspective.</b> I can almost imagine how Madeline Miller decided to write her novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Circe</u></a>. She was re-reading Homer's Odyssey and got to thinking about Circe after reading the part about Circe throwing a spell that turned men into pigs. Miller wondered what life was like from Circe's perspective, and that's what readers can enjoy in this creative and finely written novel. By writing in the first person, Miller brings Circe to life in ways that gave clear voice to this perspective. I was thoroughly entertained.</p>	

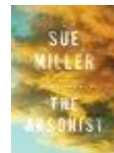
The Song of Achilles	Miller, Madeline	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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How To Be A Middle-Aged Babe	Miller, Marilyn Suzanne	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
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<a href="#">The Last Days of California</a>	Miller, Mary	*****	<a href="#">4/7/14</a>	<p><b>Journey.</b> I expected to read a few pages of Mary Miller's debut novel <a href="#">The Last Days of California</a>, and then set it aside from boredom. I didn't think I would enjoy reading about a car trip with a family leaving Alabama to get to California in time for the rapture. Instead, I was entertained by the way Miller presented family dynamics with efficiency. As farfetched as it seems, I totally understood how fourteen year old protagonist Jess felt an obligation to keep her older sister's pregnancy a secret from their parents. Miller's descriptive language provided visual realism for the motels and other settings presented. As a journey which might have been the last few days of the lives of these characters, it was a trip I enjoyed immensely, thanks to Miller's great writing.</p>	
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<a href="#">The Five Paths to Persuasion: Identifying and Influencing the Five Styles of Today's Decisions Makers</a>	Miller, Robert B. and Gary A. Williams	*****	<a href="#">June 04</a>	<p>Dialogue. Authors used data and examples to synthesis executive decision making styles to five, and present practical and useful ways to target presentations in ways most likely to lead to succeed for each style.</p>	
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The Turnaround Kid: What I Learned Rescuing America's Most Troubled Companies	Miller, Steve	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
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<u>The Arsonist</u>	Miller, Sue	****	<u>7/9/14</u>	<p><b>Sparks.</b> Readers who enjoy finely written prose and can tolerate a meandering and slow moving plot are those most likely to enjoy Sue Miller's novel, <u>The Arsonist</u>. Protagonist Frankie Rowley has returned from Africa where she's done aid work for a decade and a half. Unsure of what to do next, she joins her parents who have retired to the small community of Pomeroy, New Hampshire, where they had spent many summers. Fear has spread in the community when a pattern of fires indicates arson. While the arson plot meanders, Frankie develops a relationship with Bud Jacobs who left big city journalism to run the local paper. The sparks in their relationship provide the energy in the novel. This novel is satisfying summer reading: relax with a glass of lemonade, enjoy the fine prose, and listen for the fire engines.</p>	
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<u>The Lake Shore Limited</u>	Miller, Sue	***	<u>5/15/10</u>	<p><b>Accidents.</b> It's interesting to examine the many ways in which novelists grapple with the events of 9/11/2001 and find different ways to express this in their work. Sue Miller uses a story within a story model for her novel, <u>The Lake Shore Limited</u>. A playwright, Billy Gertz, writes about a train accident caused by a terrorist. Her lover, Gus, died in a 9/11 plane crash. Gus's sister, Leslie, grieves for him through maintaining a relationship with Billy, without knowing that Billy was about to end her affair with Gus at the time of his death. Leslie imagines a loss for Billy that exceeds Billy's actual feelings. Leslie fixes an architect friend, Sam, up</p>	
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				with Billy, who sleeps with Rafe, the lead actor in her play. If you've gotten all that straight, now be prepared to shift narrators and see events from the perspective of different characters. Miller does a fine job of presenting the complexity of relationships and the interplay of giving and receiving love and dealing with loss. The accidents and misunderstandings of life can become defining moments in relationships, and Miller's fine writing helps uncover this for any reader who enjoys reflective literary fiction.	
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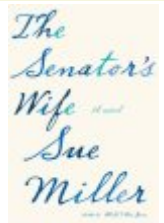
[The Senator's Wife](#)

Miller, Sue

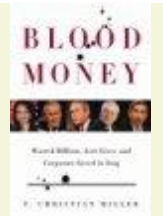
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[Mar 08](#)

**Forgiving.** A novel about marriages through the lens of two couples leaves readers wondering why people do what they do. The title refers to Delia, wife of a philandering Senator.



Blood Money	Miller, T. Christian	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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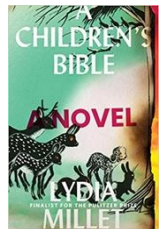
[A Children's Bible](#)

Millet, Lydia

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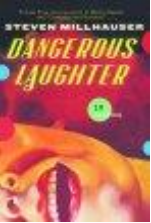





[6/24/20](#)

**Storms.** The parents in Lydia Millet's novel titled, [A Children's Bible](#), have abdicated responsibility so a group of twelve children of various ages fend for themselves after storms devastate the summer house where the extended group has been staying. The children leave their hedonistic parents in the damaged house and head into chaos. If your appetite is for dark humor in troubled times, you're likely to love reading this novel. Nature, man, animals and their relationships are fodder for Millet's fine writing and observations about the state of our lives and our world.





<a href="#"><u>Fight No More</u></a>	Millet, Lydia	****	<a href="#"><u>8/3/18</u></a>	<p><b>Home.</b> There are times when I walk by houses, my mind wanders and I think about the individuals who live there and what those lives are like. In her short story collection titled, <a href="#"><u>Fight No More</u></a>, Lydia Millet uses a single protagonist, a real estate agent named Nina, to link the stories together. Through Nina's eyes, readers learn about these individuals and Millet raises the tension as we learn what goes on behind closed doors. The writing is superb, and the stories are well-told.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Mermaids in Paradise</u></a>	Millet, Lydia	****	<a href="#"><u>12/15/14</u></a>	<p><b>Satire.</b> Lydia Millet's novel, <a href="#"><u>Mermaids in Paradise</u></a>, offers readers who love satire the hilarious story of a honeymoon. Narrator Deb met her husband, Chip, on a speed date and for so many reasons they seem made for each other. The contrasts in their personalities provide abundant material for Millet's narrative and for her humorous and quirky viewpoint on contemporary behavior. After Deb and Chip discovery mermaids Millet delivers page after page of satire with sharp wit and finely written prose. I laughed often while reading this novel, and was thoroughly entertained.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Sweet Lamb of Heaven</u></a>	Millet, Lydia	****	<a href="#"><u>10/10/16</u></a>	<p><b>Control.</b> Take your aging mind and engage it with Roger Rosenblatt's novel, <a href="#"><u>Thomas Murphy</u></a>, in which the irrepressible poet, Murph, wonders about his own aging mind, reflects on his life's relationships, and charms every reader on every page. Once engaged, give yourself over to dreams, and beauty and laughter and all that remains possible for every day that we are alive. This novel is a song to life, sung by a great lover of life, an intelligent character created by a thoughtful writer. How much of the mind of either of them, or a reader, may be misfiring is another matter altogether. Leave that for another day.</p>	

Dangerous Laughter	Millhauser, Steven	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<a href="#"><u>The King in the Tree</u></a>	Millhauser, Steven	***	<a href="#"><u>Apr 03</u></a>	<b>Betrayal.</b> Three novels plumb the dimensions of love and betrayal through fine writing, imaginative settings, and characters that reveal themselves with many of the complexities of human nature. Millhauser at his best.	
Voices in the Night	Millhauser, Steven	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
We Others	Millhauser, Steven	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
The Savage Garden	Mills, Mark	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Freaks, Geeks, and Cool Kids: Teenagers, Schools, and the Culture of Consumption	Milner, Jr., Murray	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	

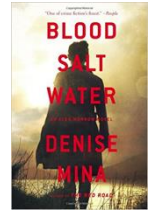
Blood Salt Water

Mina, Denise

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2/25/16

**Connections.** One of the reasons that I enjoy reading detective fiction is that I can compare my ability to connect the dots to that of the detective. Denise Mina's protagonist, Detective Inspector Alex Morrow, is great at connecting the dots, and she follows her obsession in the novel titled, Blood Salt Water. Things are not as they appear in the sleepy town of Helensburgh, and every character has something important happening that may not be evident to all. Morrow connected the dots better and faster than me, and that brought added reading pleasure. Any reader who likes detective fiction will find pleasure in this novel.



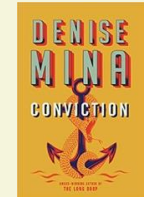
Conviction

Mina, Denise

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8/5/19

**Podcast.** I share an interest in podcasts with Anna McDonald, the protagonist of Denise Mina's novel titled, Conviction. After hearing a podcast episode about a true crime, Anna and the plot take off. It turns out that Anna was very familiar with the crime described on the podcast. For almost four hundred pages, Mina writes with clever wit and readers learn about a secret from Anna's past and the efforts she takes to come to terms with solving a mystery and finding out the truth about something that changed her life.



The Dead Hour

Mina, Denise

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



The Long Drop






Mina, Denise

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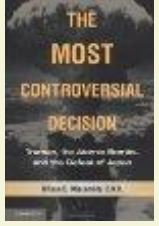
7/6/17


**Complexity.** Fans of well-written crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy Denise Mina's novel titled, The Long Drop. Set in Glasgow in the 1950s, the novel is a fictional account of serial killer Peter Manuel whose real crimes terrorized the residents of that city. I enjoyed the web of

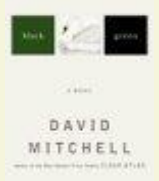


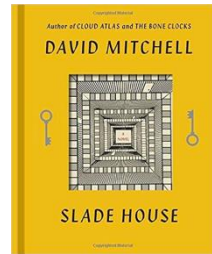
				complexity that Mina lays out, and the clever ways she keeps readers off balance and in the dark.	
<a href="#">The Red Road</a>	Mina, Denise	****	<a href="#">5/28/14</a>	<p><b>Glasgow.</b> Fans of crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading Denise Mina's novel, <a href="#">The Red Road</a>. This is the first novel I've read by Mina, and I thoroughly enjoyed her characters and plot. Protagonist DI Alex Morrow comes across as a perfectly complete human: caught between work and home; highly skilled and also stumbling; confident and uncertain. Past and present time frames add to the complexity of the story, and brought me added pleasure. The case is interesting, the characters intriguing.</p>	
Confessions	Minato, Kanae	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
Managers, not MBAs : a hard look at the soft practice of managing and management development	Mintzberg, Henry	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2005	
Molly Ivins: A Rebel Life	Minutaglio, Bill and W. Michael Smith	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<a href="#">A Place for Us</a>	Mirza, Fatima Farheen	****	<a href="#">11/6/18</a>	<p><b>Family.</b> It was a real pleasure to take an armchair vacation spent with an Indian American family while I read Fatima Farheen Mirza's debut novel titled, <a href="#">A Place for Us</a>. Mirza's finely written prose guides us back and forth in time as she develops the depth and complexity of an interesting cast of</p>	


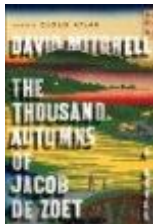
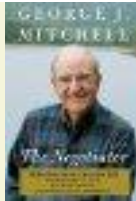

characters. We spend our lives defining the place we call home, and each of us can struggle with identity and belonging. Mirza presents our story on the pages of this novel, and she does that with great skill.

The Most Controversial Decision: Truman, the Atomic Bombs, and the Defeat of Japan	Miscamble, Wilson	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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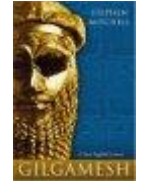
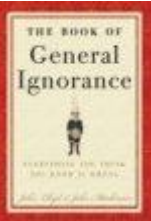
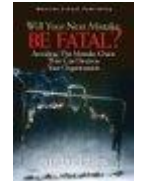
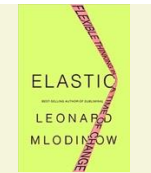

Still Summer	Mitchard, Jacquelyn	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
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<u>Black Swan Green</u>	Mitchell, David	***	<u>August 06</u>	<b>Thirteen.</b> Outstanding writing that explores the complicated interior life of a thirteen-year-old adolescent, the struggles with parents, siblings and peers, and an increasing awareness of the impact of the world beyond a small town.	
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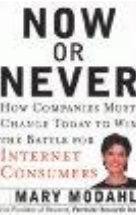
<u>Slade House</u>	Mitchell, David	****	<u>11/20/15</u>	<b>Souls.</b> For any reader who has found David Mitchell's longer novels a bit challenging to read, consider his latest novel titled, <u>Slade House</u> . In this finely written haunted house story, Mitchell leaves behind the complexity he usually constructs and offers a compact and simple story that brought me great reading pleasure. Some readers can swallow this 250 page novel in a single sitting. Others may want to savor the suspense over the course of a few days. Any reader who likes ghost stories and the idea of lost souls will find something to like in this novel.	
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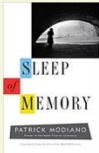
<a href="#"><u>The Bone Clocks</u></a>	Mitchell, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<a href="#"><u>The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet</u></a>	Mitchell, David	*****	<a href="#"><u>9/10/10</u></a>	<p><b>Isolated.</b> David Mitchell uses each of the almost 500 pages of his new historical novel, <a href="#"><u>The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet</u></a>, to draw readers into the setting, characters and plot. The setting is Nagasaki, Japan at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when that country was cut off from the rest of the world by its own policies. Protagonist de Zoet arrives as a clerk at the Dutch trading outpost on a quarantined island named Dejima in 1799. His first job is in forensic accounting to uncover fraud against the Dutch East India Company by its local employees. His principled, but isolated stance against his new boss leads him toward personal setbacks. Instead of spending six years in Japan, he lives there for twenty. The supporting cast of characters is rich, and Mitchell develops each with precision and skill. The plot has enough twists to keep readers alert, and the poetic writing makes the scenes come alive. Any reader who likes historical fiction and fine writing will find much to enjoy in this novel.</p>	
The Negotiator	Mitchell, George	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
Listener Supported	Mitchell, Jack W.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	

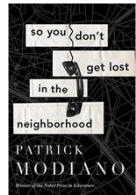


Big-Box Swindle	Mitchell, Stacy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<a href="#">Gilgamesh</a>	Mitchell, Stephen	***	<a href="#">July 05</a>	<b>Timeless.</b> If you've never read this epic, which may be the oldest book in the world (1000 years older than The Iliad), there's no longer an excuse thanks to this fine, accessible version.	
<a href="#">The Book of General Ignorance: Everything You Think You Know Is Wrong</a>	Mitchinson, John and John Lloyd	***	<a href="#">Mar 08</a>	<b>Humility.</b> After reading this Q&A trivia book, readers are likely to be a bit more cautious about things that we think we know. Read this and show the smarty pants in your life where he or she is ignorant.	
Will Your Next Business Mistake Be Fatal?: Avoiding A Chain Of Mistakes That Can Destroy Your Organization	Mittelstaedt, Robert	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<a href="#">Elastic: Flexible Thinking in a Time of Change</a>	Mlodinow, Leonard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Subliminal: How Your Unconscious Mind Rules Your Behavior	Mlodinow, Leonard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	

The Drunkard's Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives	Mlodinow, Leonard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
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<u>Now or Never</u>	Modahl, Mary	*	<u>10/00</u>	Informercial from a VP at Forrester Research. Sample if you have to.	
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<u>Sleep of Memory</u>	Modiano, Patrick	****	<u>3/26/19</u>	<p><b>Places.</b> Life goes on in the small moments just as well as in the great events. Patrick Modiano explores the nature of our recollections in a novel titled, <u>Sleep of Memory</u>. After I finished the book, I thought of the closing line spoken by the nihilist played by Greta Garbo at the end of the tumultuous 1932 movie, <i>Grand Hotel</i>: “people come, people go, nothing ever happens.” That line followed lots of large and small happenings. Modiano takes us into recollections of the small moments from the past, in neighborhoods of Paris, where a person can seem to be departed from the world after moving from one neighborhood to another. This is an atmospheric novel, very focused on place, and a gentle way for readers to think about places and memory.</p>	
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<u>So You Don't Get Lost in the Neighborhood</u>	Modiano, Patrick	****	<u>10/15/15</u>	<p><b>Place.</b> Readers with the patience and tolerance to read fiction that relies on neither plot nor character are those most likely to enjoy reading Patrick Modiano's novel titled, <u>So You Don't Get Lost in the Neighborhood</u>. I enjoyed the ways in which Modiano presented a sense of place and the exploration of memory. The atmosphere he creates comes to life in ways that entertained me. A few months ago, I read his book, <i>Suspended Sentences</i>,</p>	
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in which he did much the same thing. I may skip the rest of the Modiano oeuvre now that I think I get his shtick.

<a href="#"><u>Sundays in August</u></a>	Modiano, Patrick	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
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**Memory.** The power of the past over the present can be overwhelming, and it is memory that makes the past immediate. I picked up Patrick Modiano's novellas after he won the Nobel Prize in Literature last year. Titled, [Suspended Sentences](#), these novellas present meditations and reflections on the Paris of the past, and the ways in which incomplete memories leave gaps in our experience of the present. Readers who like fiction that sets a mood and offers descriptive atmospheric language are likely to enjoy reading this collection, as are those readers who enjoy fiction that leads to personal reflection, especially about memories of the past.

[Suspended Sentences: Three Novellas](#)

Modiano, Patrick

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[3/13/15](#)



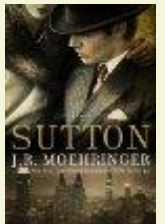
**Memories.** There's a whole generation or two of readers who don't know much about the life of Willie Sutton, although some might come up with the right question in response to a low value Jeopardy box like, "He said that's where the money is." Thanks to a finely written debut novel, [Sutton](#), by J.R. Moehringer, readers can find out about the person who robbed more banks than anyone else, and became a folk hero to his fellow Americans. A reporter and photographer have been sent to pick up Sutton as he leaves prison for an exclusive interview. While Sutton agrees to the interview, he takes charge of leading the young reporter on a tour of special places in New York that meant a lot to Sutton, and this journey provides the setting for Moehringer to lay out the story of Sutton's life.

[Sutton](#)

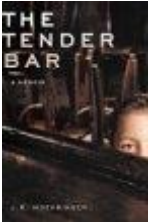
Moehringer, J.R.

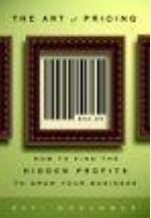
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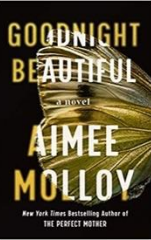
[9/25/12](#)




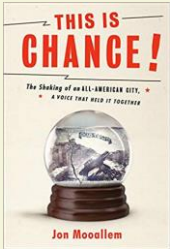
				Unlike a stale biography, the novel structure allows Moehringer to blend historical facts with his own imagination to produce an engaging, entertaining and well told story. Any reader who appreciates well written prose, loves New York, and has an interest in twentieth century stories, is likely to enjoy this novel.	
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<u>The Tender Bar</u>	Moehringer, J.R.	***	<u>June 06</u>	<b>Nurture.</b> Pulitzer-Prize winning <i>Los Angeles Times</i> writer centers this touching memoir at the bar on Long Island where he grew up, and introduces readers to the people at that bar who nurtured him.	
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<u>The Art of Pricing</u>	Mohammed, Rafi	**	<u>Feb 06</u>	<b>Conversational.</b> Some solid ideas on how to think differently about pricing presented in a conversational style, absent a fact base for the methods proposed.	
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<u>Goodnight Beautiful</u>	Molloy, Aimee	****	<u>12/9/20</u>	<b>Twists.</b> Fans of suspense novels will enjoy being deceived by the narrative in Aimee Molloy's novel titled, <u>Goodnight Beautiful</u> . Protagonists Sam Statler and his new wife, Annie Potter, leave New York City to make a new life in Sam's quiet hometown upstate. What follows builds in suspense, especially after Sam goes missing. Just when a reader follows the clues, Molloy switches gears and there's a new puzzle to figure out. I enjoyed every time I had to accept that what I thought was going on just wasn't the case. This novel offers readers a few hours of good entertainment.	
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<a href="#"><u>The Perfect Mother</u></a>	Molloy, Aimee	****	<a href="#"><u>8/27/18</u></a>	<b>Support.</b> New moms need support. Aimee Molloy's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Perfect Mother</u></a> , introduces readers to the May Mothers, a group whose children were born at the same time, and who provide support for each other. During a rare night out for the moms at a bar, one of the children goes missing. Molloy picks up the pace and races through the next two weeks of anguish, tension, revelation and a surprising twist. Fans of thrillers are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel. Any reader with a young child doesn't have the time to read this novel, and that's a very good thing.	
From Squaw Tit to Whorehouse Meadow	Monmonier, Mark S.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
Jerusalem: The Biography	Montefiore, Simon Sebag	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
Dancing to Almendra	Montero, Mayra	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<a href="#"><u>The Hollows</u></a>	Montgomery, Jess	****	<a href="#"><u>3/6/20</u></a>	<b>Integration.</b> Jess Montgomery reprises characters from her debut novel, <i>The Widows</i> , in a new novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Hollows</u></a> , also set in the 1920s. The past doesn't always stay buried in the Appalachian hills of Southeast Ohio, and Sheriff Lily Ross finds herself uncovering disturbing evidence of KKK	

				<p>activity and conflict in the community over integration. Lily's character continues to develop in this novel, and her choices along with those of her friends provide most of the plot momentum. Fans who love historical fiction with strong female characters are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<p><a href="#"><u>The Widows</u></a></p>	<p>Montgomery, Jess</p>	<p>****</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>2/2/19</u></a></p>	<p><b>Mining.</b> In a finely written debut novel by Jess Montgomery titled, <a href="#"><u>The Widows</u></a>, the protagonists Lily and Marvena are connected through the Sheriff of a small Ohio coal mining town, Daniel Ross. Set in the 1920s, the novel is packed with interesting characters and plot momentum involving violence, greed, loss, and restraint. Lily and Marvena are also connected in a battle for justice, a cause for which these two widows are formidable warriors. Readers who enjoy historical fiction and well-developed complex characters are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<p><a href="#"><u>This Is Chance!: The Shaking of an All-American City, A Voice That Held It Together</u></a></p>	<p>Mooallem, Jon</p>	<p>****</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>5/5/20</u></a></p>	<p><b>Earthquake.</b> Readers who enjoy uplifting stories about people helping others are those most likely to enjoy Jon Mooallem's book titled, <a href="#"><u>This Is Chance!: The Shaking of an All-American City, A Voice That Held It Together</u></a>. Mooallem tells the story of the Great Alaskan Earthquake of 1964, much of it from the perspective of Genie Chance, a radio broadcaster who found herself able to help others by staying on the radio in Anchorage and keeping people informed and helping point people in the direction of helping one another. This is a great character study of Genie Chance, of the can-do attitude of newcomers in Anchorage, and the human goodness of people who just step up to do what needs to be done.</p>	



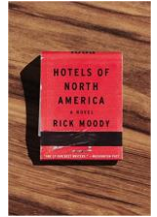
[Hotels of North America](#)

Moody, Rick

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[2/16/17](#)

**Reviews.** Readers who look to fiction to distill contemporary life and offer insight for reflection are those most likely to enjoy reading the fine prose and creativity of Rick Moody's novel titled, [Hotels of North America](#). Moody uses the structure of online hotel reviews by protagonist and motivational speaker, Reginald Edward Morse. Morse has become melancholy and through Moody's finely crafted sentences, we enjoy the presentation of a life of loneliness, regret, humor and a dose of irony.



The Republican  
War on Science

Mooney, Chris

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2006



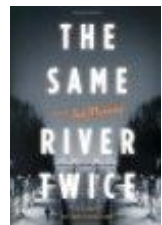
[The Same River Twice](#)

Mooney, Ted

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[8/16/10](#)

**Endings.** Ted Mooney's latest novel, [The Same River Twice](#), invites readers into an artistic and philosophical journey, set in Paris. Mooney uses the moviemaking of protagonist Max Colby as a backdrop to an intellectual exploration of alternative endings to life and relationships. Max's wife, Odile, a clothing designer, provides the plot momentum through her sideline work as a courier who smuggles Soviet-era flags out of Russia. Think of this book as the written form of a quirky foreign film that twists and turns leaving one wondering what that was all about. Patient and intelligent readers will be rewarded by Mooney's good writing, and for feeling the brain's engagement while reading.



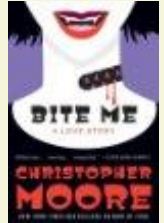
Bite Me: A Love Story

Moore,  
Christopher

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5/25/10

**Chuckles.** Humor requires a receptive audience. Live humor can rise and fall on the energy level between the humorist and the live audience. Written humor can become dicey depending on the willingness of a reader to appreciate character and plot as presented by a witty author. Christopher Moore can write plot and characters that make readers laugh. In the latest installment of his bloodsucking fiends series titled, Bite Me: A Love Story, the characters and plot provide loads of chuckles to any receptive reader. The vampire angle provides some fuel for plot and to attract select readers. For me, the lovesick characters and their behavior was universal, and I laughed often at dialogue and the ways in which the characters interacted. A reader looking for humorous escape fiction will find brief entertainment and a few laughs from these pages.



Fool

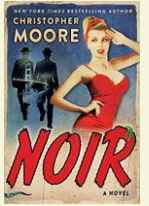


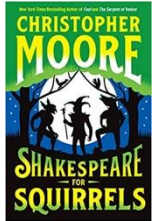
Moore,  
Christopher

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5/23/09

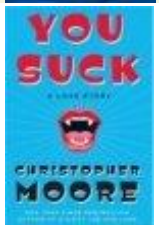
**Bawdy.** If your taste in comedy includes the bawdy, you are likely to laugh out loud as you read Christopher Moore's Fool. Moore uses Shakespeare's King Lear as his backdrop for protagonist Pocket, the jester. If you take your Shakespeare very seriously, you may be irritated by Moore's irreverence. I found the exploits of Pocket and his sidekick Drool to be a total delight. As the jester, Pocket developed relationships with Lear, his daughters, and many others in the court. Moore exploits enough about the characters as Shakespeare developed them, and then adds his perfected pitched humor to deliver a very entertaining novel.






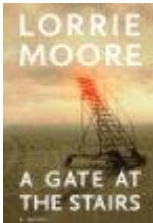
<a href="#"><u>Noir</u></a>	Moore, Christopher	****	<a href="#"><u>5/22/18</u></a>	<p><b>Perky.</b> I always finish reading a Christopher Moore novel in high spirits. Even when he takes on noir, he does it in a perky way. His latest novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Noir</u></a>, is set in San Francisco following World War II and the hijinks of a large cast of interesting characters kept me entertained throughout the novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Sacre Bleu</u></a>	Moore, Christopher	***	<a href="#"><u>4/27/12</u></a>	<p><b>Colorful.</b> The last time I read a novel about a color must have been when I was three or four years old. I have a distant memory of dreaming of the colors coming to life. Maybe that experience prepared me to enjoy reading Christopher Moore's novel, <a href="#"><u>Sacre Bleu</u></a>. The Impressionist painters come to life in this novel, and the illustrations and the beauty of the book itself were a joy to experience. This is a funny and imaginative novel that can be best enjoyed while sipping French wine. Readers who are looking to read something a little different should consider this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Secondhand Souls</u></a>	Moore, Christopher	****	<a href="#"><u>10/26/15</u></a>	<p><b>Bridge.</b> Readers looking to escape with a zany novel should consider reading Christopher Moore's <a href="#"><u>Secondhand Souls</u></a>. Reprised characters from <i>A Dirty Job</i> and <i>Coyote Blue</i> enhance the reading pleasure for fans, but a first-time reader may be well-entertained by this novel. Souls of the dead are disappearing in San Francisco, and even stranger things are happening. There's a banshee having fun trying to marshal forces to act, and the Golden Gate Bridge may never look the same to this reader after ingesting Moore's spooky images.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Shakespeare for Squirrels</u></a>	Moore, Christopher	****	<a href="#"><u>8/19/20</u></a>	<p><b>Dream.</b> The latest romp with Shakespeare and Christopher Moore is a novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Shakespeare for Squirrels</u></a>, the author's version of <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>. The more you know Shakespeare, the funnier this novel is, and the squirrels are the icing on the cake. Characters from Moore's earlier Shakespearean ventures are reprised to the</p>	

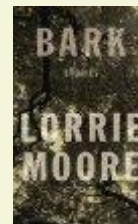



satisfaction of readers of the previous two novels in this set. If you liked Pocket in the earlier novels, you'll love him in this one as he works his magic. Readers looking for a relaxing diversion are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

The Serpent of Venice	Moore, Christopher	Unread		Funny blend of Shakespeare and Poe got too tedious by the middle, so I put it aside. Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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<a href="#"><u>You Suck: A Love Story</u></a>	Moore, Christopher	**	<a href="#"><u>Mar 07</u></a>	<b>Adolescent.</b> Entertaining novel of vampire love and the quest to quench appetite. The humor is adolescent, escapist and funny, providing an ideal distraction.	
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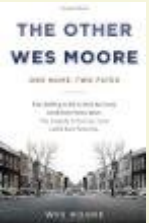
<a href="#"><u>The Last Days of Night</u></a>	Moore, Graham	****	<a href="#"><u>6/16/17</u></a>	<b>Cravath.</b> Fans of historical fiction that doesn't stray far from fact are those most likely to enjoy reading Graham Moore's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Last Days of Night</u></a> . Set in the 1890s, the novel features a large cast of well-known characters including George Westinghouse, Thomas Edison, Nicola Tesla, J.P. Morgan and Alexander Graham Bell. The protagonist is young lawyer Paul Cravath whose name may be known to many, but whose life hasn't been written about often. Cravath is hired by Westinghouse to defend his company in lawsuits with Edison over light bulb patents. Moore captures the excitement of the time when inventions were proliferating and fortunes were being made. Moore even makes the lawsuits exciting. The pace of the novel is quicker than most thrillers, and I was enthralled and entertained from beginning to end. A friend who is an attorney recommended this novel, and I put it at the top of my queue. I never	
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<a href="#"><u>Bush's Brain: How Karl Rove Made George W. Bush Presidential</u></a>	Moore, James and Wayne Slater	***	<a href="#"><u>Sep 03</u></a>	<p>would have guessed on my own that a lawyer could have been such an interesting character.</p> <p><b>Relentless.</b> Political junkies of all stripes will read the vignettes presented about Rove and come away thinking about how much they know and don't know about this close advisor.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Night Market</u></a>	Moore, Jonathan	****	<a href="#"><u>6/20/18</u></a>	<p><b>Memories.</b> Ross Carver is confused and keeps struggling to remember what happened. Jonathan Moore's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Night Market</u></a>, keeps readers confused as well, which is very tolerable since the pace of this thriller has two settings: fast and faster. Readers who enjoy an offbeat and not necessarily reality-baked novel are those most likely to enjoy this book.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>A Gate At the Stairs</u></a>	Moore, Lorrie	****	<a href="#"><u>10/15/09</u></a>	<p><b>Sadness.</b> Lorrie Moore's new novel, <a href="#"><u>A Gate At the Stairs</u></a>, is a year in the life of the twenty-year-old protagonist, Tassie Keltjin, as she leaves her rural Wisconsin home for her first year in college. Funny, sad, biting, witty: the lyrical writing encompasses all that and more. Filled with an eclectic cast of characters, a twisting plot and plenty of contemporary social issues, <a href="#"><u>A Gate At the Stairs</u></a> taps into fears, vulnerability, and leads to laughter side-by-side with sadness. Lorrie grows up fast during this year, as she gains insight into the consequences of the things we do as adults as well as the things we fail to do. The relationship between parents and children provides much of the material for the novel. I liked <a href="#"><u>A Gate At the Stairs</u></a> because it does so much of what I want a fine novel to do: draw me into the lives of characters so I can learn about myself and others as I read about how these characters behave in living through life's ups and downs.</p>	

<a href="#">Bark</a>	Moore, Lorrie	*****	<a href="#">3/25/14</a>	<p><b>Acerbic.</b> I've always been attracted to smart-mouthed women. There are eight stories in the latest collection from Lorrie Moore titled, <a href="#">Bark</a>. I was delighted by the acerbic wit and psychological insight presented in these quirky stories. Moore observes our human condition with a mature eye to our foibles and how easy it can be to become caught up in our unusual behaviors. The short story structure demands discipline in narrative and character development, and Moore displays great skill in drawing us into lives quickly, helping us recognize the depth of characters, and enjoy the situations of others. Throughout, we learn about human behavior, thanks to this smart-mouthed and very talented author.</p>	
Dark Nights of the Soul: A Guide to Finding Your Way Through Life's Ordeals	Moore, Thomas	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2004	
<a href="#">French Revolutions: Cycling the Tour de France</a>	Moore, Tim	*	<a href="#">Nov 02</a>	<p><b>Spinning.</b> Inexperienced cyclist and writer decides to buy a bike and follow the path of the 2000 Tour de France a few weeks ahead of the pros. Sprinkled liberally with fine British humor, appeals to fans of wit, cycling and the Tour.</p>	
<a href="#">Five Days: The Fiery Reckoning of an American City</a>	Moore, Wes	****	<a href="#">7/6/20</a>	<p><b>Changemakers.</b> Robin Hood Foundation CEO Wes Moore pulls readers of his book titled, <a href="#">Five Days: The Fiery Reckoning of an American City</a>, into the long weekend of Freddie Gray's death in Baltimore in April 2015. We learn about the city of Baltimore, the root sources of discontent that led to the violence following Gray's death, and the hopeful signs of a better future. We are introduced to changemakers who we'll root for and support as they try to make Baltimore a better place. This is one more book that helps privileged white men like</p>	



me understand better what Black Lives Matter is about, to commit to supporting those trying to effect lasting impact, and to change what I can to make things better.

<a href="#"><u>The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates</u></a>	Moore, Wes	***	<a href="#"><u>7/23/10</u></a>	<p><b>Divergence.</b> Two young men from similar backgrounds living in the same area at the same time were nudged down different paths at what became critical turning points in their lives. Both men are named Wes Moore. One is the author of the book, <a href="#"><u>The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates</u></a>. He was a Rhodes scholar and an assistant to Condoleezza Rice, and has been an investment banker. The other Wes Moore is in jail. The gripping story of these two men reads like a novel, and contains valuable insights for any reader.</p>	
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Blowing My Cover: My Life as a CIA Spy

Moran, Lindsay

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



All the Living	Morgan, C.E.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
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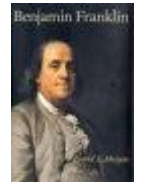
[Benjamin Franklin](#)


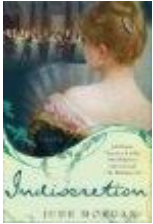
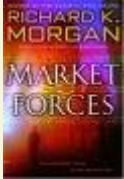
Morgan, Edmund S.

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[Mar 03](#)

**Statesman Scientist.** As Morgan says early on, this is a short biography “meant only to say enough about the man to show that he is worth the trouble.” It’s no trouble at all to turn the pages of this well-written life of Franklin.



The GENnuine Article: A Historian Looks at Early America	Morgan, Edmund S.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
Indiscretion	Morgan, Jude	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Market Forces	Morgan, Richard K.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	

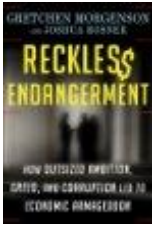
Reckless  
Endangerment:  
How Outsized  
Ambition,  
Greed, and  
Corruption Led  
to Economic  
Armageddon

Morgenson,  
Gretchen and  
Joshua Rosner


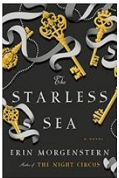
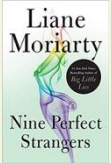
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6/18/11

**Villain.** Gretchen Morgenson and Joshua Rosner seethe with anger about the financial crisis and put that anger on the pages of their new book, Reckless Endangerment: How Outsized Ambition, Greed, and Corruption Led to Economic Armageddon. While the book contains all the familiar characters, practices and companies that are at the heart of the crisis, Morgenson and Rosner call attention to a person rarely mentioned by other journalists: James Johnson, former CEO of Fannie Mae. He becomes the poster child of the behavior that led to disaster: the proponent of programs for the poor that enriched him greatly and placed the most vulnerable at risk. He pocketed \$100 million by expanding home ownership through loose credit standards and deft political maneuvering. Put another way: Johnson was the one who set in motion everything that Angelo Mozilo and Countrywide and others did. It's no surprise that of the hundreds of people they interviewed, Johnson refused their requests. Most readers who pick up



this book will come away from it as angry as the authors.

<a href="#"><u>The Night Circus</u></a>	Morgenstern, Erin	*****	<a href="#"><u>11/14/11</u></a>	<p><b>Repercussions.</b> Erin Morgenstern uses the setting of a magical circus as a place to unveil many components of human relationships that bring illumination to the best and the worst of human behavior. <a href="#"><u>The Night Circus</u></a> caught my attention from the outset and maintained my engagement throughout. As the complexity of the plot and the development of characters progressed, I gained increased respect for Morgenstern's skills. The circus becomes the locus of a contest between magicians. Thanks to her writing skills, it became much more than a competition, and the repercussions of what was set in motion became significant. This is a novel that most readers will want to discuss with others.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Starless Sea</u></a>	Morgenstern, Erin	*****	<a href="#"><u>1/2/20</u></a>	<p><b>Doors.</b> With apologies (or thanks) to Dr. Seuss, oh the places we'll go and the things we'll see. That's the welcome readers will receive when opening the five hundred page novel by Erin Morgenstern titled, <a href="#"><u>The Starless Sea</u></a>. There are keys to be found as shown on the book jacket and doors to be opened. We are taken inside a secret world and get to sail on a starless sea. We are on a journey, and this imaginative book will give interested readers a delightful magical tour. Morgenstern's descriptive prose brings this world alive for us. Close readers will love the symbolism and the beauty of the writing and the references to other imaginative works of fiction. I loved the adventure of the journey and I admire the quality of the prose.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Nine Perfect Strangers</u></a>	Moriarty, Liane	*****	<a href="#"><u>2/21/19</u></a>	<p><b>Spa.</b> One recipe for a novel: conjure up some interesting people and put them in an unusual place. In her novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Nine Perfect Strangers</u></a>, Liane Moriarty puts a cast of very interesting characters in a wellness spa called Tranquillum</p>	

				House. All is not as it appears at this health resort, and the lives of the characters have levels of depth that take a while to reveal. Over the course of more than 450 pages, Moriarty reveals who these people are and what is really going on at Tranquillam House. You may never go to a spa again.	
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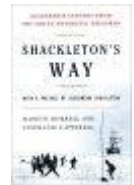
Shackleton's Way: Leadership Lessons From the Great Antarctic Explorer

Morrell, Margot and Stephanie Capparell

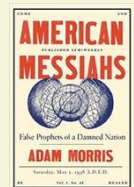
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July 04

**Engaged.** Stories from the life of Sir Ernest Shackleton, synthesis of lessons learned, and modern examples of executives who have followed his example of involved and engaged leadership.



<u>American Messiahs: False Prophets of a Damned Nation</u>	Morris, Adam	***	<u>10/25/19</u>	<b>Audience.</b> Throughout American History religious leaders have arisen to present an alternative message to receptive followers. In his book titled, <u>American Messiahs: False Prophets of a Damned Nation</u> , Adam Morris surveys a wide range of these leaders, some well-known and others obscure. General readers may find the narrative a bit bland while those knowledgeable in history and religion may find that the narrative leaves many gaps. I enjoyed hearing about people I never knew, like Cyrus Teed in the nineteenth century, and some I enjoyed learning more about, like Father Devine in the twentieth century. Some self-proclaimed messiahs were benign and others dangerous. Any reader with interest in both history and religion will find these stories interesting.	
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The Dawn of Innovation: The First American Industrial Revolution

Morris, Charles R.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



<a href="#"><u>The Trillion Dollar Meltdown: Easy Money, High Rollers, and the Great Credit Crash</u></a>	Morris, Charles R.	****	<a href="#"><u>Oct 08</u></a>	<b>Leverage.</b> Confused about the current credit situation? Morris unravels much about the policies and practices that led to recent outcomes, and the likely swing of the pendulum in another direction.	
The Tycoons	Morris, Charles R.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<a href="#"><u>Power Plays: Win or Lose – How History’s Great Political Leaders Play the Game</u></a>	Morris, Dick	***	<a href="#"><u>Jul 02</u></a>	Six strategies and how they were successful or not when pursued by nineteen politicians around the world.	
<a href="#"><u>Vote.com</u></a>	Morris, Dick	DNR	<a href="#"><u>4/00</u></a>	Useless promotional screed for author’s website. Take a pass.	
Beethoven	Morris, Edmund	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

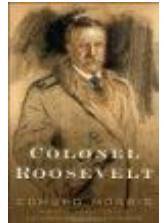
Colonel  
Roosevelt

Morris, Edmund

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1/25/11

**Bully.** The superb conclusion to Edmund Morris' trilogy on the life of Theodore Roosevelt is titled Colonel Roosevelt. Those who have read the earlier installments have been waiting a decade for this book, and the wait has been worth it. Morris presents the final decade of Roosevelt's life as a time packed with tragedies and setbacks, while Roosevelt's indomitable spirit soars above all obstacles until his death. Despite the almost 800 pages of this book, I wanted to read even more about the 1912 election or the trip down the River of Doubt. Any reader who enjoys American history will find the character of Teddy Roosevelt as presented here to be as engaging and interesting a presentation as one can find.



Dutch: A  
Memoir of  
Ronald Reagan

Morris, Edmund

DNR

11/99

Take a pass.



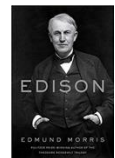
Edison

Morris, Edmund

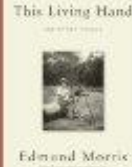


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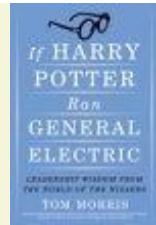
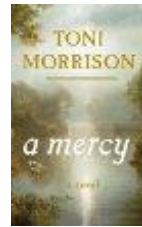
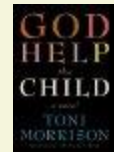
11/14/19

**Prolific.** Edmund Morris' biography titled, Edison, was published after the author's death. Were he alive, I would have asked him why he chose a structure for the book that was as difficult as its subject. While most biographies proceed chronologically, Morris goes backward, mostly, and organizes in the following categories: botany, defense, chemistry, magnetism, light, sound, telegraphy, and natural philosophy. The prolific and talented Edison explored all those areas, and he patented inventions at a great clip throughout his life. Despite the challenging structure, most readers will find Edison a great subject and Morris a fine presenter of the complex and voluminous material of a highly productive life.





This Living Hand	Morris, Edmund	Unread		<p>I sampled many of the essays in this comprehensive collection of essays. Morris is a fine writer and this collection displays his considerable range. I chose not to read all the essays, so there will be no review. From my sampling, I was heading in the direction of “highly recommended”. Shelf of Ennui 2012.</p>	
<a href="#">The Tattooist of Auschwitz</a>	Morris, Heather	*****	<a href="#">2/8/19</a>	<p><b>Hope.</b> For those readers who look to fiction to explore the scope of human behavior, consider reading Heather Morris’ finely written novel titled, <a href="#">The Tattooist of Auschwitz</a>. Protagonist Lale Sokolov arrives at the concentration camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1942. Because of his language skills, he is selected to work as a tattooist to mark numbers on prisoners. Morris sets up the contrast between the evil behavior of the Nazis and Lale’s ways of helping others and fostering hope in himself and others. This is a love story between Lale and Gita, a woman he meets in the camp. Based on a true story, Morris draws readers into horror and hope in ways that affirm our ability to express love and survive against all odds.</p>	
<a href="#">In My Mind's Eye</a>	Morris, Jan	****	<a href="#">12/9/19</a>	<p><b>Endearing.</b> Jan Morris calls her book titled, <a href="#">In My Mind's Eye</a>, “a thought diary.” Wherever those thoughts come from, they are finely written, endearing and certainly eclectic. Some of the daily diary entries are short, and others are finely developed essays. Most are quips that will cause readers to smile and become charmed by this talented author who still amazes in her nineties. Could there be something magical in the water in Wales?</p>	
The Jazz Palace	Morris, Mary	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

If Harry Potter Ran General Electric	Morris, Tom	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<a href="#">A Mercy</a>	Morrison, Toni	***	<a href="#">2/23/09</a>	<p><b>Ambiguity.</b> Reading Toni Morrison's <a href="#">A Mercy</a> slowly during Black History Month gave me plenty of time to absorb her lyrical language and reflect on her depiction of life in America in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. <a href="#">A Mercy</a> presents that time and place through multiple narrators and through the description of setting and feelings in a way that readers can come closer to understanding all the moral ambiguity of the era. One could be opposed to slavery and also participate in its practices. Individuals can yearn for a better life while despairing the present one. One can be subject to the mastery of another while fearing the absence of that master. The language becomes mesmerizing at times, and I found the best way to absorb the story was to relax and take it in, rather than try to over-analyze or think too hard about what was going on. Morrison and her work have been recognized and rewarded. <a href="#">A Mercy</a> adds to her legacy.</p>	
<a href="#">God Help the Child</a>	Morrison, Toni	****	<a href="#">6/26/15</a>	<p><b>Image.</b> Sometimes we just want a novel to break our hearts. Toni Morrison's wisdom and fine writing broke my heart as I read her latest novel titled, <a href="#">God Help the Child</a>. Protagonist Bride was not loved as a child by her father and by her light-skinned mother because she was "too dark." Morrison expresses passion and disappointment that we can be so foolish to let something unimportant like image lead to a denial of love. One of the most memorable phrases from the novel is that "what you do to children matters." At fewer than two hundred pages, this novel can be read</p>	

<a href="#"><u>Home</u></a>	Morrison, Toni	*****	<a href="#"><u>6/15/12</u></a>	<p>quickly, and should be of interest to many book clubs.</p> <p><b>Lyrical.</b> Before I finished the first page of Toni Morrison's new novel, <a href="#"><u>Home</u></a>, she had me. This finely written story of a Korean War veteran, Frank Money, riffs on the nature of "home," and every sentence is crafted in a way that tells Frank's story with just the right words. Morrison describes the time, the places and the community in ways that bring it all to life in a reader's mind. Treat yourself to a few very enjoyable hours reading this fine novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Bluest Eye</u></a>	Morrison, Toni		<a href="#"><u>6/00</u></a>	<p>This is Morrison's first novel, originally published thirty years ago. Here's another chance for those of us who missed it the first time around.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Source of Self-Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations</u></a>	Morrison, Toni	*****	<a href="#"><u>8/15/19</u></a>	<p><b>Prowess.</b> If the occasion of Toni Morrison's death leads you to read or reread her fiction, by all means do it. A few days before her death, I read a collection titled, <a href="#"><u>The Source of Self-Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations</u></a>, and she has been on my mind in recent weeks. I love her novels, and this collection reveals that same clear voice in personal ways and with vision and deep thought. Whenever and however Morrison spoke, attention must be paid by those willing to learn a thing or two. On some pages, we hear Morrison the teacher, on others, the editor, and on others the award-winning author. Her prowess appears throughout, and I finished reading this collection inspired and perhaps a tiny bit wiser.</p>	

The Best Year of Their Lives: Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon in 1948	Morrow, Lance	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan


Mortenson, Greg

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4/5/10

**Building.** Greg Mortenson's follow-up to his inspirational best-selling *Three Cups of Tea*, is titled, Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This book builds on the last one, and conveys the huge impact that a single school can have on a community and a region. Along the way, readers are introduced to the lives of people who live different external lives from most Americans, but who share the same dreams for our children and our communities. The importance of the education of women in Afghanistan and Pakistan can't be overstated, and Mortenson's work and this description of it make the case clearly.



Three Cups of Tea	Mortenson, Greg and David Oliver Relin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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The Time Traveler's Guide to Medieval England: A Handbook for Visitors to the Fourteenth Century

Mortimer, Ian

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010




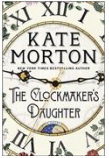
<a href="#"><u>A Rumpole Christmas</u></a>	Mortimer, John	***	<a href="#"><u>12/12/09</u></a>	<p><b>Bittersweet.</b> There are five enjoyable short stories in a collection from the late John Mortimer titled, <a href="#"><u>A Rumpole Christmas</u></a>. Fans of the PBS series <i>Rumpole of the Bailey</i> will recognize a familiar cast of character from Horace Rumpole himself, to his wife Hilda (“She Who Must Be Obeyed”), to his chambers colleagues and recalcitrant judges, as well as charming rogues. Each story is set around Christmas and presents a perfect mix and the familiar and the new. John Mortimer died in early 2009, and while these stories had been published individually in English periodicals, this is the first time they appear in a collection. I had a bittersweet reaction as I finished the last story with the realization that I may have read all the Rumpole that has been written. So, I drained the glass of my equivalent of Chateau Thames Embankment and poured another, offering a toast of thanks to Mortimer for creating such a great character. Any reader will find something to like in each of the five stories in <a href="#"><u>A Rumpole Christmas</u></a>.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Quite Honestly</u></a>	Mortimer, John	***	<a href="#"><u>May 06</u></a>	<p><b>Goodness.</b> Narration alternates between a bishop’s daughter and a thief, and their different points of view on the same action provides reading pleasure.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Rumpole and the Penge Bungalow Murders</u></a>	Mortimer, John	***	<a href="#"><u>June 05</u></a>	<p><b>Youthful.</b> Finally, faithful Rumpole fans get to hear the whole story of the case that launched his Old Bailey career in the form of a novel-memoir, the longest Rumpole story ever.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Rumpole and the Primrose Path</u></a>	Mortimer, John	***	<a href="#"><u>Mar 04</u></a>	<p><b>He’s Back.</b> Beloved barrister Horace Rumpole has recovered from illness, leaves the Primrose Path nursing home and returns to chambers in triumph in new collection of six short stories.</p>	

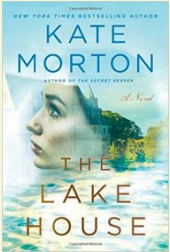
<a href="#"><u>Rumpole and the Reign of Terror</u></a>	Mortimer, John	***	<a href="#"><u>Mar 07</u></a>	<b>Ties.</b> The Timsons, Rumpole and the British Anti-Terror Act are linked together in this timely novel, packed with the usual Rumpole vivacity.	
<a href="#"><u>Rumpole Misbehaves</u></a>	Mortimer, John	***	<a href="#"><u>Mar 08</u></a>	<b>Anti-social.</b> Several cases of anti-social behavior, including Rumpole's own, come together in the latest finely written tale of the Old Bailey's boisterous barrister.	
<a href="#"><u>Rumpole Rests His Case</u></a>	Mortimer, John	***	<a href="#"><u>Jan 03</u></a>	<b>The End?</b> Could this be the last of the Rumpole books? If so, savor each of the week's worth of stories in this book, and hope that this is not the end.	
The Sound of Trumpets	Mortimer, John			If you enjoyed Rumpole, you'll love this third volume of the Titmuss series. If you want to read the earlier Titmuss novels, read <a href="#"><u>Titmuss Regained</u></a> and <a href="#"><u>Paradise Postponed</u></a> .	
<a href="#"><u>Where There's A Will</u></a>	Mortimer, John	***	<a href="#"><u>Nov 05</u></a>	<b>Testament.</b> Thirty-two reflections as a conversation memoir, structured as the legacy the creator of Rumpole has left for his heirs, based on his 80 years of learning life's lessons.	
<a href="#"><u>Florence Gordon</u></a>	Morton, Brian	****	<a href="#"><u>4/24/15</u></a>	<b>Funny.</b> I don't think Brian Morton could have chosen any title other than <a href="#"><u>Florence Gordon</u></a> for his new novel, since it is all about her. This seventy-five year old knows her own mind, and speaks bluntly to any listener within earshot, filtering not a single syllable out of tact. Florence Gordon is an academic and an icon among feminists. She does not suffer	



fools gladly. I laughed often at her acerbic dialogue. I can't recall another novel with such a strong female protagonist of this age. Morton offers readers deep understanding about aspects of human behavior and the wisdom of those who have lived life.

The First Detective: The Life and Revolutionary Times of Vidocq: Criminal, Spy and Private Eye	Morton, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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<u>The Clockmaker's Daughter</u>	Morton, Kate	*****	<u>11/21/19</u>	<b>Voices.</b> Fans of big and complicated historical mysteries are those readers most likely to enjoy Kate Morton's novel titled, <u>The Clockmaker's Daughter</u> . Some readers may become unsettled with the pacing of the novel, as Morton shifts voices and time periods just as a reader settles into one of the puzzle pieces. It can feel like starting over with a new voice, and it is. Patient readers will be rewarded by the gradual reveal, and with an engaging mystery packed with interesting characters.	
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<u>The Lake House</u>	Morton, Kate	*****	<u>1/5/16</u>	<b>Loss.</b> I thoroughly enjoyed reading Kate Morton's novel titled, <u>The Lake House</u> . Set mostly in Cornwall, England, the novel alternates action between two time periods: 1933 when a young boy goes missing, and 2003 when a London detective finds herself staying under the radar out of town, and stumbles into an unsolved case that draws her in. Morton drew me in as the plot became complicated, and the themes of children, loss and kin were explored. Morton offers great characters that kept me turning the pages to discover more	
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<a href="#"><u>Eileen</u></a>	Moshfegh, Ottessa	*****	<a href="#"><u>11/18/16</u></a>	<p>about their lives, their losses, and the solution to the mystery of the missing boy.</p> <p><b>Darkness.</b> I let Ottessa Moshfegh's debut novel, <a href="#"><u>Eileen</u></a>, sit in my reading queue for a long time. I heard it was a dark story, and I kept choosing other things to read, especially on cloudy days. Once I started reading the novel, I gave myself over to Moshfegh's great talent, and I was impressed and delighted by the fine writing and great skill in presenting a memorable character in her 70s reflecting on formative events fifty years earlier. Readers are drawn into Eileen's mind. The descriptions of Eileen's life with her alcoholic father were very hard to read. There's a twist that surprised me and pushed the novel to a higher plane. I wish I hadn't waited so long to read it. Fans of finely written literary fiction, especially those with a high tolerance for reading about abuse are those most likely to appreciate this outstanding novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Homesick for Another World</u></a>	Moshfegh, Ottessa	****	<a href="#"><u>3/14/17</u></a>	<p><b>Margins.</b> Ottessa Moshfegh gives voice to characters who live on the margins of society in her collection of fourteen short stories titled, <a href="#"><u>Homesick for Another World</u></a>. I reveled in her wit, especially when the humor is dark. There were many sentences I read more than once, so I could savor them. Readers who enjoy short stories will find very finely crafted stories in this collection. Anyone who gains comfort from the flaws of others will share the glee with Moshfegh as she draws us into lives not very similar to our own, but true to ourselves at our very core. This is our world, like it or not.</p>	

[My Year of Rest and Relaxation](#)

Moshfegh, Ottessa

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[9/12/18](#)

**Sleep.** Most psychiatrists would propose engagement with others as a way to deal with alienation, and many patients would consider that path. The young female protagonist of Ottessa Moshfegh's novel titled, [My Year of Rest and Relaxation](#), chooses another way to deal with her situation: sleep. I laughed at the ways in which she gets her very strange psychiatrist to prescribe loads of pills to help her sleep. The prose is so finely written and the narrative so perfectly crafted that despite the sleeping, there is a high energy maintained throughout the novel. When there are just a handful of pages left to read, we are snapped out of our own drugged state as Moshfegh delivers a perfect ending.



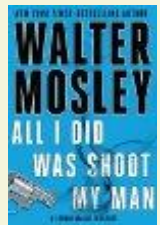
[All I Did Was Shoot My Man](#)

Mosley, Walter

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[2/3/12](#)

**Paternal.** The more Walter Mosley develops the character of protagonist Leonid McGill, the greater the desire of fans to want the series to grow. The fourth novel of the series is titled [All I Did Was Shoot My Man](#), and the contrasting love and loss, joy and sorrow of McGill, the tragic hero and private detective, caught me from the beginning and held me to the end. The complex relationship between fathers and sons is a motif in this novel, and the plot will require close attention. First time readers of the McGill series can begin here, but those who have read the earlier novels will be best prepared for the richness of this latest installment.



[And Sometimes I Wonder About You](#)

Mosley, Walter

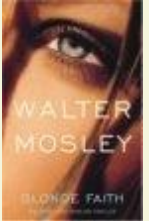
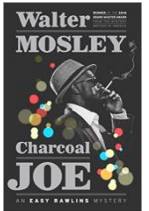
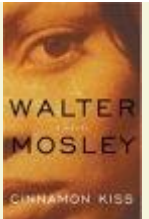
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[6/10/15](#)

**Desire.** Fans of Walter Mosley and his Leonid McGill detective series will be delighted to read the fifth installment titled, [And Sometimes I Wonder About You](#). New readers to the series can easily start here, although the richness of the story can be enhanced for those readers familiar with the earlier novels. Mosley's prose will please any reader. His characters are well-developed, the plot is always engaging, and the insight into human behavior is



wise and deep. Desire permeates this installment. Leonid's father shows up in his life, a long-held desire now realized. A beautiful woman draws out physical desires and emotional longing. Leonid's son goes missing, and his wife comes home from the sanitarium. Throughout it all, there's a case to solve, and the usual interactions with the police. This book provides lots of entertainment to those readers who like crime fiction.

<a href="#"><u>Blonde Faith</u></a>	Mosley, Walter	***	<a href="#"><u>Feb 08</u></a>	<b>Dependable.</b> Another Easy Rawlins mystery with a well-structured plot, fine dialogue and keen insight into human nature. Mosely can be counted on to deliver reading pleasure.	
<a href="#"><u>Charcoal Joe</u></a>	Mosley, Walter	****	<a href="#"><u>7/15/16</u></a>	<b>Solid.</b> Fans of character-driven crime fiction will be delighted with the return of Easy Rawlins in Walter Mosley's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Charcoal Joe</u></a> . This solid, complex character has new challenges in his work life and in his personal life. In every situation, under pressure or while relaxed, Easy is a consistent and reliable guy, using his mind or his body as the situation demands. Fans of the series will enjoy all the familiar characters from earlier novels. New readers will become hooked by Mosley's fine writing.	
<a href="#"><u>Cinnamon Kiss</u></a>	Mosley, Walter	***	<a href="#"><u>Jan 06</u></a>	<b>Frustrations.</b> Easy Rawlins returns in installment 10 of this series, and works on a missing persons case to get money to care for his sick daughter. All the complexity of characters and relationships continue.	

[Debbie Doesn't Do It Anymore](#)

Mosley, Walter

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[7/28/14](#)

**Conversion.** I can't think of another writer who could present as a protagonist a porn star whose behavior is presented effectively as a model for any reader. Walter Mosley introduces readers to Sandra Peel, professionally known as Debbie Dare, in his novel titled, [Debbie Doesn't Do It Anymore](#). After spending the day performing sex acts for a movie, Sandra returns home to find her husband, Theon Pinkney, dead from electrocution in a bathtub, naked, alongside a naked and dead young woman who was aspiring to become a porn star. While Mosley writes plainly about sexual activities that might make some readers uncomfortable, the prose is not titillating, just descriptive of the reality of what is being done. The novel is a story of the conversion of Sandra from the life she has been living toward some better way of making a living. Mosley presents Sandra as fearless and compassionate, at a place on her road of life, ready to turn in a new direction. I closed the book with great satisfaction at what a fine job Mosley did in presenting me with a memorable character whose behavior I understood and respected.



[Diablerie](#)

Mosley, Walter

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[June 08](#)

**Survival.** Serious novel explores malevolence, alienation, and the protagonist's struggle to understand his past and survive into a less-troubled future.



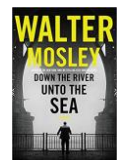
[Down the River Unto the Sea](#)

Mosley, Walter

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[4/23/18](#)

**Reconciliation.** Prolific novelist Walter Mosley has a gift for fans: a new terrific protagonist. While some of Mosley's readers can't help but ask for more Easy Rawlins books, or Leonid McGill novels, those open to new characters will find a complex and well-developed protagonist in Joe King Oliver, introduced in a novel titled, [Down the River Unto the Sea](#). King lost his NYPD job after somebody set



him up with an accusation of rape, for which he was convicted and jailed. After release, he becomes a private detective, and, in this novel, he is dealing with a case to release another innocent inmate, while he searches for resolution and justice for those who sent King to prison. While on a journey of redemption, King struggles with achieving reconciliation and with staying alive, especially because of his love for his daughter. Mosley writes with great skill, and most fans of crime fiction will enjoy reading this novel.

Fear of the Dark	Mosley, Walter	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
<a href="#">Fortunate Son</a>	Mosley, Walter	***	<a href="#">July 06</a>	<b>Luck.</b> Mosley departs from his Easy Rawlins series and presents the lives of two boys, Eric and Tommy, and shows how fate leads them toward or away from happiness.	
<a href="#">Inside a Silver Box</a>	Mosley, Walter	****	<a href="#">12/4/15</a>	<b>Salvation.</b> Whenever Walter Mosley departs from his usual character-driven fiction, readers know he is having a good time letting his imagination soar and bringing loyal readers along for a fascinating ride. In his novel titled, <a href="#">Inside a Silver Box</a> , Mosley explores the proximity of death, and how salvation can come from unlikely sources. Things are never as they appear in Mosley's world: the silver box contains the most powerful force in the universe, and means peril and death to all of us. Readers who enjoy imaginative fiction that takes us outside the world we think we live in are those most likely to enjoy this novel.	



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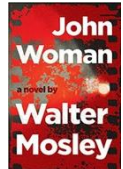
[John Woman](#)

Mosley, Walter

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[9/24/18](#)

**History.** Walter Mosley has given readers interesting and eccentric characters before and has often been provocative in his plot and philosophy. In his novel titled, [John Woman](#), Mosley begins with the formative years of a young man named Cornelius Jones, and transforms the boy into a controversial history professor named John Woman. In my view, this character is Mosley's finest yet, and the provocative nature of the plot is delivered with great skill. Readers may not think of history in the same way after reading this book, and whatever it is that one feels guilty about will come to some reckoning because there are consequences for our actions.

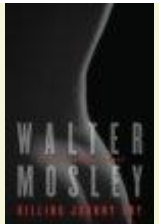


Killing Johnny Fry

Mosley, Walter

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



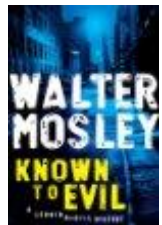
[Known to Evil](#)

Mosley, Walter

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[6/22/10](#)

**Redemption.** Walter Mosley continues to develop the protagonist Leonid McGill in his novel titled, [Known to Evil](#). The motivation of private detective McGill is to act in ways that atone for his bad behavior, and it his redemption that becomes a life goal. In some ways McGill is both hero and everyman. Thanks to Mosley's fine writing, the dialogue seems realistic, the characters are well-developed, and the insights about human condition are profound. The personal circumstances that led McGill to this moment in his life and those of society at large contain a randomness that's sobering.



<a href="#">Little Green</a>	Mosley, Walter	*****	<a href="#">6/25/13</a>	<p><b>Rebirth.</b> Whether you've read all the Easy Rawlins novels from Walter Mosley, or if <a href="#">Little Green</a> is your introduction, chances are you'll enjoy reading this book. Los Angeles private detective Easy Rawlins came close to death in a car accident, and as the novel opens he is slowly returning to life. Mosley develops this complex character with precision, and describes the setting, culture and issues of the world in 1967 with an attention to detail that transports readers to that time and place. Racial tension, hippies, drugs and violence provide a backdrop for what is a story of rebirth. Sit back, relax, and let Easy Rawlins entertain you with his kindness, integrity and perseverance.</p>	
<a href="#">Little Scarlet</a>	Mosley, Walter	***	<a href="#">Jan 05</a>	<p><b>Heated.</b> Pitch-perfect novel of LA in 1965 after the Watts riots, capturing the violence, fears and prejudice of the time.</p>	
<a href="#">Merge / Disciple: Two Short Novels from Crosstown to Oblivion</a>	Mosley, Walter	***	<a href="#">11/8/12</a>	<p><b>Possibilities.</b> The short novels that Walter Mosley writes in his Crosstown to Oblivion series are finely written and quick to read. The latest, <a href="#">Merge/Disciple</a>, includes two novellas that are paired as perfectly as when a wine complements a tasty plate of food. Mosley riffs on an expanded reality and what may be possible. In <i>Merge</i>, a lottery winner uncovers a richer treasure than his winnings. In <i>Disciple</i>, the protagonist finds himself promoted from being a data entry clerk to the head of a company. However unlikely the plot, readers are likely to enjoy the tightly written prose and the big questions underlying the stories. Mosley is a fine writer and readers who like to think about life and its possibilities are those most likely to enjoy these two short novels.</p>	

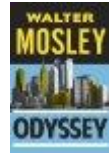
Odyssey

Mosley, Walter

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4/24/14

**Blindness.** Walter Mosley uses the temporary blindness of protagonist Sovereign James as a way to alert readers to what we may not see in his finely written novel, Odyssey. Sovy is not the mild-mannered, middle-aged human resources manager he may appear to be. His work has been revolutionary in intent, which he reveals once he becomes blind, so others can see what he has done. His relationship with Toni is passionate and Sovy helps her find a new way of being. Mosley is a philosopher with great insight into human nature. In this short novel, he presents interesting characters in a creative way, and helps all readers gain a deeper understanding of the darkness and light in our lives.



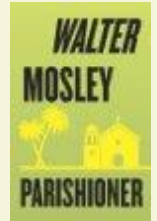
Parishioner

Mosley, Walter

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10/25/13

**Forgiveness.** Walter Mosley's novel, Parishioner, was released exclusively as an ebook. If you're looking to fill your Kindle with a great story, consider this entertaining novel. Mosley's theme is forgiveness, and he packs the novel with a cast of characters that need a lot of forgiveness. I was entertained by the pacing of the story, and the ways in which Mosley draws readers into caring about what happens to very interesting characters. Any Mosley fan will find a lot to enjoy in this novel.



Rose Gold

Mosley, Walter

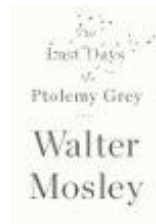
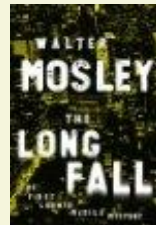
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10/6/14

**Complexity.** Fans of Walter Mosley's superb writing are those most likely to enjoy his latest Easy Rawlins mystery titled, Rose Gold, although a first-time reader would be very satisfied with this interesting and complex work of crime fiction. Set in 1960s California, Mosley describes with great skill the people, places, and context of that time. As I read this novel, I found myself embedded in the culture Mosley presents and almost smelled and tasted what he describes. I was entertained from beginning to end by the prose and the plot.



<a href="#"><u>Stepping Stone/Love Machine</u></a>	Mosley, Walter	*****	<a href="#"><u>10/8/13</u></a>	<p><b>Intervention.</b> The novellas in the Crosstown to Oblivion series by Walter Mosley explore big questions in creative ways. The third and latest, <a href="#"><u>Stepping Stone/Love Machine</u></a>, explores intervention and redemption. Mosley seems to revel in his speculation about the meaning of life and good and evil. I enjoyed both of these novellas, and as long as this is what Mosley is writing, I'm happy to read them. I recommend that any interested reader consider an excerpt before leaping in, because this writing may not be what you expect. Chances are that is you like the excerpt, you'll like the complete work.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Awkward Black Man</u></a>	Mosley, Walter	*****	<a href="#"><u>10/12/20</u></a>	<p><b>Portraits.</b> I've read a lot of Walter Mosley's novels, and I consistently enjoy his fine writing and the ways in which his characters are complex, interesting, and exhibit human behavior that's always recognizable. In a collection of seventeen short stories titled, <a href="#"><u>The Awkward Black Man</u></a>, Mosley exhibits his talent at character portraits with great skill and efficiency. Within the constraints of the short story structure, Mosley presents vulnerability, struggles, awkwardness in the world and relationships, and strength in moving ahead. There are terrific characters presented in these stories, and many readers will see themselves and others presented with insight and sensitivity by the fine writing of this talented author.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Gift of Fire / On the Head of a Pin: Two Short Novels from Crosstown to Oblivion</u></a>	Mosley, Walter	***	<a href="#"><u>7/16/12</u></a>	<p><b>Imaginative.</b> I often find myself becoming comfortable with the writing style of a favorite author and I set my expectations on opening a new work based on what I've read before. Walter Mosley departs from his crime fiction in a new book presenting two novellas titled, <a href="#"><u>The Gift of Fire/On the Head of a Pin: Two Short Novels from Crosstown to Oblivion</u></a>. While a departure and an upset to my expectations, Mosley's fine writing and</p>	

			imaginative exposition delighted me. Both novellas tackle an exploration of our humanity using great story telling and some twisting of perceptions of reality. Readers looking for fiction that's clever, imaginative and brief are those most likely to enjoy this book.	
<a href="#"><u>The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey</u></a>	Mosley, Walter	*****	<u>12/11/10</u> <b>Fire.</b> Walter Mosley is well-known for his Easy Rawlins novels, and more recently for those featuring Leonid McGill. Mosley departs from those series with a finely written new novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey</u></a> . Protagonist Mr. Grey is ninety one years old and experiencing the onset of dementia. Mosley presents Grey with such care and precision that all the heartbreak of losing one's mind pervades these pages. Grey is surrounded by people trying to take advantage of him until seventeen-year-old Robyn Small becomes his caretaker. She cleans up his cluttered apartment, making it clean and functional, and takes Grey to a doctor who provides an experimental drug that temporarily reinvigorates all Grey's thinking and memories. The last weeks of Grey's life are spent in ensuring a legacy that will provide meaning. A theme of fire runs through this novel, from a childhood scene to the powerful drug burning up his body and mind. Any reader who likes good character-based fiction is likely to enjoy this novel. Anyone who has direct experience of dementia will find this novel realistic and poignant.	
<a href="#"><u>The Long Fall</u></a>	Mosley, Walter	***	<u>7/2/09</u> <b>Change.</b> Change is tough. When a favorite serial novelist introduces a new protagonist set in a different place, a reader departs from the familiar and either embraces or rejects the new character. I embraced Leonid McGill, the hero of Walter Mosley's new novel, <a href="#"><u>The Long Fall</u></a> . This 53-year-old former boxer is known as LT, and he is at a transforming period in his life: turning away from	

being a bad guy, and trying to become a good guy. The flawed hero provides ample opportunity for character development, and Mosley presents LT as the kind of complicated modern man formed by a past, and fighting to overcome that history and live better today. A police lieutenant works hard to put LT in jail; a teenage son, Twill, is on the verge of irreversible criminal acts; and he and his wife are in a loveless relationship. Following the successful completion of what seemed like a legitimate detecting assignment to find the identity and locale of four men, LT learns that he was used by somebody to exert revenge for something, and he became the unwitting accomplice to murder. Change is tough, and LT is a tough guy who readers will cheer on as he tries to change his life. As expected from Mosley, [The Long Fall](#) is well-written, and the characters are all memorable and come to life on every page.

[The Man in My Basement](#)

Mosley, Walter

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[Apr 04](#)

**Darkness.** Well-written novel of ideas explores power, manipulation, repentance and the darkness of evil. Encourages readers to think.



[The Right Mistake](#)

Mosley, Walter

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[12/20/08](#)

**Release.** Walter Mosley's latest Socrates Fortlow novel, [The Right Mistake](#), maintains an emotional intensity throughout that engages readers and made me catch my breath at the end of some chapters. Ex-con Socrates gathers people together in West Central Los Angeles to talk. Like his namesake, he asks questions, and claims no wisdom of his own. Along the way, he builds community, finds redemption alongside other characters, and in some way or another, each character finds a release from whatever constrains them. This is a finely written novel with real characters living as best they can.





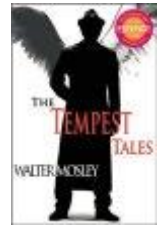
[The Tempest Tales](#)

Mosley, Walter

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[Oct 08](#)

**Philosophical.** Humorous novel in which Tempest Landry argues with Saint Peter over going to hell, is sent back to Harlem with an angel, and enlists Satan in his cause.



[Trouble Is What I Do](#)

Mosley, Walter

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[3/13/20](#)

**Catfish.** The seventh novel in the Leonid McGill series by Walter Mosley is titled, [Trouble Is What I Do](#). After a ninety-two-year old man named Catfish comes to New York from Mississippi with what seems like a simple request, P.I. McGill agrees to help. No good deed goes unpunished. What follows in the story pulls together all the complexity of this complicated protagonist. While packed with lots of action, this short novel seemed to end too quickly. Fans of crime fiction and this series are those readers most likely to enjoy this installment, and with me, look forward to more pages in the next novel.



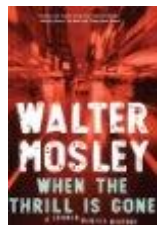
[When the Thrill Is Gone](#)

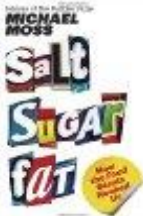


Mosley, Walter

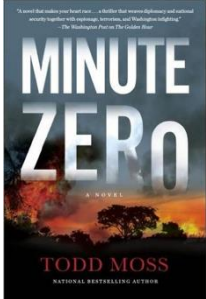

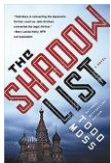
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[3/27/11](#)


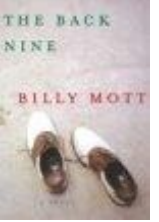
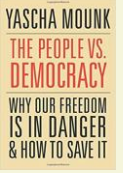

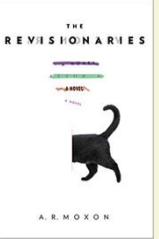
**Fathers.** The third Walter Mosley novel to feature private detective Leonid McGill is titled, [When the Thrill Is Gone](#). McGill is a study in power and restraint as he continues a struggle to live a better life. A new client leads him on a complicated case that requires his compassion and caring for doing what he determines is the right choice. He is aware that his wife, Katrina, is having an affair. When his son, Twill, becomes involved in a scam, McGill responds with firm love. His longtime friend Gordon Tallman is now living in McGill's apartment because he is seriously ill with cancer. Throughout the novel, McGill recalls what his father might say or do in particular situations. Mosley's prose is always the right blend of dialogue and poetic description. Readers who like mysteries, fine prose, and complex characters will love this novel.



Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us	Moss, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<a href="#">Ghost Wall</a>	Moss, Sarah	*****	<a href="#">3/26/19</a>	<p><b>Abuse.</b> What did you do on your summer vacation? In Sarah Moss' novel titled, <a href="#">Ghost Wall</a>, protagonist Silvie joins her family in the countryside in the north of England for her father's favorite leisure activity: an Iron Age reenactment. In addition to her father's obsession with this unusual activity, he also beats her. In this dark context, Silvie becomes aware that there may be a better way of life outside the ghost wall that her father has built for their family. Fans of literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this short novel.</p>	
<a href="#">Ghosts of Havana</a>	Moss, Todd	*****	<a href="#">9/11/17</a>	<p><b>Treasure.</b> For some reason, I let the third novel by Todd Moss featuring Judd Ryker to sit in queue for almost a year. This action thriller titled, <a href="#">Ghosts of Havana</a>, focuses on manipulation and the compartmentalization of information and action. There are lies at the core of the novel, and some of them are between Judd and his wife, Jessica. Readers who enjoy action thrillers will read this novel quickly and find a lot to enjoy. While I'm sorry to have postponed my pleasure in reading this novel, the time to the fourth installment will now be briefer than usual.</p>	

<a href="#"><u>Minute Zero</u></a>	Moss, Todd	*****	<a href="#"><u>5/13/16</u></a>	<p><b>Used.</b> Todd Moss continues to make the art of diplomacy thrilling through his recurring protagonist, Judd Ryker, and a new novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Minute Zero</u></a>. Ryker is a crisis manager for the Department of State, and in this novel, he's sent to Zimbabwe, where a presidential election and rumors of a sale of enriched uranium create a volatile environment. The title refers to the ability to shape events during a very brief period of time; miss the window and the events may proceed toward a disastrous outcome. Todd is being manipulated, used in fact, in ways he cannot see. Fans of thrillers are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Golden Hour</u></a>	Moss, Todd	*****	<a href="#"><u>1/16/15</u></a>	<p><b>Deceptions.</b> Readers who enjoy intelligent political thrillers are those most likely to enjoy Todd Moss' debut novel titled, <a href="#"><u>The Golden Hour</u></a>. Protagonist Judd Ryker gets to prove his academic theory of crisis intervention when he is appointed as the State Department's head of a crisis reaction unit. The theory is that during the first hundred hours, a crisis can be turned around. When a coup happens in Mali, Ryker leads the interagency task force to deal with it. Caught up in turf battles, Ryker races to Mali trying to beat the clock and resolve the crisis. The plot moves quickly, the situation is believable and the perspective on politics and infighting realistic. I was entertained from beginning to end and look forward to reading more from Moss, who had worked at the State Department and is now employed at a Washington think tank.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Shadow List</u></a>	Moss, Todd	*****	<a href="#"><u>2/9/18</u></a>	<p><b>Nigeria.</b> The fourth novel by Todd Moss to feature Judd Ryker and his wife, Jessica, is titled, <a href="#"><u>The Shadow List</u></a>. This time out the State Department sends Judd to Nigeria to find a missing investment banker while the CIA has Jessica in Russia posing</p>	

as an assassin for a crime boss. As Moss is wont to do, while he sends the couple out on distinct missions, connections draw them into joint peril in the same place. Fans of thriller novels are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.

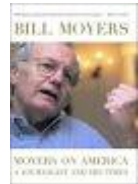
Labyrinth	Mosse, Kate	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
The Back Nine	Mott, Billy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<a href="#"><u>The People vs. Democracy: Why Our Freedom Is in Danger and How to Save It</u></a>	Mounk, Yascha	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
The Dismal Science	Mountford, Peter	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<a href="#"><u>The Revisionaries</u></a>	Moxon, A.R.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	

Moyers on  
America : a  
journalist and  
his times

Moyers, Bill

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



Leningrad:  
Siege and  
Symphony: The  
story of the  
great city  
terrorized by  
Stalin, Starved  
by Hitler,  
Immortalized by  
Shostakovich

Moynahan, Brian

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



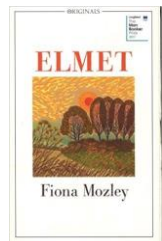
Elmet

Mozley, Fiona

\*\*\*\*

12/18/17

**Brutish.** The world can be a violent and brutish place, and escape may not be possible. In Fiona Mozley's debut novel titled, Elmet, a father, daughter and son live in a rural area in a house built by hand on land owned by someone else. The landlord represents evil and encourages violence. This is a novel about outcasts and the bonds of family love, under which one does what is necessary to survive. Mozley's prose is finely written, and readers who enjoy literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.



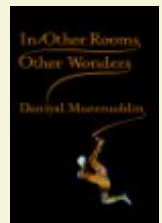
In Other  
Rooms, Other  
Wonders

Mueenuddin,  
Daniyal

\*\*\*

3/28/09

**Patronage.** This collection of eight connected stories by Daniyal Mueenuddin is titled, In Other Rooms, Other Wonders. All are set in Pakistan, and present characters who are linked by long-term patronage. The daily struggles of these characters disclose a way of life that often seems hopeless. Even joy becomes tainted with melancholy. The roles of the individual within the society are so proscribed, that all behavior occurs within the tension of constraints. Whether patron or servant, the connections rarely lead to happiness, and often



				end in tragedy. The fine writing and strong character development made reading this collection a real pleasure.	
<a href="#">A Life Apart</a>	Mukherjee, Neel	****	<a href="#">7/1/16</a>	<p><b>Alienation.</b> While reading Neel Mukherjee's debut novel, <a href="#">A Life Apart</a>, I had to keep reminding myself that this book was not written by an older and more experienced writer. The construction of the novel was complicated: the story of a young man in one chapter followed by the story of an old woman in the next chapter, then repeated. Both protagonists have been experiencing life as outsiders, the young man as an Indian in England, and the English woman living in India. Mukherjee presents the depth of their emotions and the totality of their alienation with great skill. Readers who enjoy debut novels and fine literary fiction are those most likely to appreciate this novel.</p>	
<a href="#">A State of Freedom</a>	Mukherjee, Neel	****	<a href="#">2/2/18</a>	<p><b>Dislocation.</b> The struggles and challenges of the characters in the novel by Neel Mukherjee titled, <a href="#">A State of Freedom</a>, are different, but each person faces being removed from one way of living and needing to adjust to a new situation. Mukherjee expresses their hunger and striving with great skill. The extremes of inequality can be leveled when facing dislocation or upheaval of any sort. What are we looking for? What will it take for us to be free?</p>	
The Lives of Others	Mukherjee, Neel	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<a href="#">The Gene: An Intimate History</a>	Mukherjee, Siddhartha	*****	<a href="#">6/3/16</a>	<p><b>Heredity.</b> I find that science writing for general audiences can be too dumbed down or just downright boring. Siddhartha Mukherjee sustains lively interest and a respect for intelligent readers through the 600 pages of his book titled, <a href="#">The Gene: An Intimate History</a>. He makes this a personal</p>	



story for us by connecting readers to his family and helping us care deeply about heredity. He opens the book with a personal story, and injects others just often enough throughout the text. Mukherjee presents both complicated science with key moral questions for our consideration. If there's only one science book you'll read this year, consider this one as an ideal choice.

[How to Forget: A Daughter's Memoir](#)

Mulgrew, Kate

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[4/16/20](#)

**Grief.** As another child of an alcoholic Catholic father, I felt an empathy with the author as I read Kate Mulgrew's memoir titled, [How to Forget: A Daughter's Memoir](#). I approached the book expecting less candor than the talented actor delivers in this emotional and vulnerable book. Written from a place of grief following the death of both parents, the book is packed with love and caring as well as understanding while still disclosing the suffering among so many of the individuals described. There's wit and self-deprecation and the telling of interesting family stories. Most of all, this is a tribute by a daughter infused with love.



[Please See Us](#)

Mullen, Caitlin

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



[The Tyranny of Metrics](#)

Muller, Jerry Z.

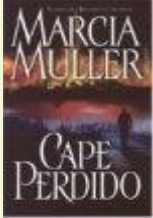
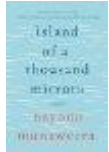
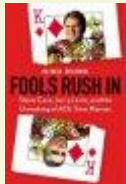
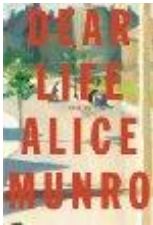
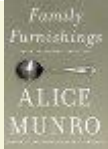
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[8/27/18](#)




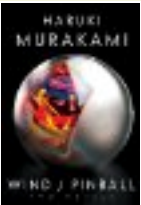
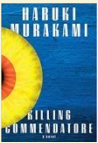
**Reconsider.** I loved Jerry Muller's attack on over-quantification in his book titled, [The Tyranny of Metrics](#). He argues persuasively that there has been a growing obsession with metrics, and often the wrong things are measured for the wrong reasons. So many measures are "gamed" that those responsible for setting them must reconsider the effectiveness of what has moved beyond effective tools for applying judgment. Muller packs this book



with examples of metrics gone awry and offers ways to think differently about improving the use of quantitative measures.

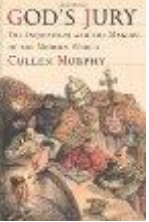
Cape Perdido	Muller, Marcia	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
Island of a Thousand Mirrors	Munaweera, Nayomi	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
Fools Rush In: Steve Case, Jerry Levin, and the Unmaking of AOL Time Warner	Munk, Nina	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<u><a href="#">Dear Life</a></u>	Munro, Alice	*****	<u><a href="#">2/9/13</a></u>	<p><b>Expert.</b> Any reader who likes short stories will be rewarded with examples of the very best of this genre in a new collection from Alice Munro titled, <u><a href="#">Dear Life</a></u>. Set in Ontario, Canada, each story reveals something essential about human behavior and the joy and heartbreak of life. The efficiency of this genre requires precision in language selection, and Munro is an expert. I savored and enjoyed each of the stories in this collection.</p>	
Family Furnishings	Munro, Alice	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

<a href="#"><u>Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage</u></a>	Munro, Alice	***	<a href="#"><u>Jan 02</u></a>	Munro's mastery of plot, efficiency of language, and precision of structure are all evident in each of these nine short stories.	
<a href="#"><u>Runaway: Stories</u></a>	Munro, Alice	***	<a href="#"><u>Mar 05</u></a>	<b>Lyrical.</b> New collection of short stories replete with lyrical prose, fine dialogue and the complexity of women's lives changing over time.	
The View From Castle Rock	Munro, Alice	*		Read and not reviewed.	
<a href="#"><u>Too Much Happiness</u></a>	Munro, Alice	***	<a href="#"><u>1/16/10</u></a>	<b>Alive.</b> Alice Munro uses great skill to bring characters to life quickly within the constraints of the short story genre. Her latest collection of ten stories titled, <a href="#"><u>Too Much Happiness</u></a> , displays that skill. No two stories are quite alike, and yet each one describes relationships and behavior that every reader will recognize as being alive and real. I recommend reading one story at a time and setting the book aside for a while. The title story is quite different from the others, and is taken from a true historical figure.	
<a href="#"><u>Chain of Blame: How Wall Street Caused the Mortgage and Credit Crisis</u></a>	Muolo, Paul and Matthew Padilla	***	<a href="#"><u>Sep 08</u></a>	<b>Contagion.</b> The first salvo in a likely series of books about the mortgage and credit crisis. The authors do a good job in describing the context and conditions that led to meltdown, and they hone in on blaming subprime lenders and Wall Street for this mess. More will be said by others.	

1Q84	Murakami, Haruki	Unread		I skimmed and couldn't find out why so many reviewers liked this book. I gave up, bored. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	
<u>After Dark</u>	Murakami, Haruki	***	<u>July 07</u>	<b>Mood.</b> Night is for dreaming, and lots more. Loneliness and alienation interspersed with caring characters, as an omniscient narrator unveils all.	
<u>Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage</u>	Murakami, Haruki	*****	<u>9/15/14</u>	<b>Self.</b> I finished reading Haruki Murakami's novel, <u>Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage</u> , so soon after I started it, that it was as if I had dreamed it. If Murakami's prose is this mesmerizing in translation, I wonder what it's like in Japanese. This novel is an exploration of self, drawn both from the inner life of protagonist Tsukuru Tazaki, and from the pilgrimage he makes from a condition of loneliness to reconnect with a circle of friends from his youth. Through the lens of Tsukuru's ordinary life, and from his dreams, we can come to understand something new about ourselves, and about our common human condition.	
<u>Hear the Wind Sing and Pinball</u>	Murakami, Haruki	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<u>Killing Commendatore</u>	Murakami, Haruki	***	<u>6/10/19</u>	<b>Painting.</b> One reading of Haruki Murakami's novel titled, <u>Killing Commendatore</u> , may lead to one or two more for devoted fans. For me, once through was more than enough. An unnamed painter leaves a relationship and moves to the	


				<p>home of a famous artist where he finds a painting in the attic. What follows is a detachment from the world and a journey of discovery into ideas and metaphors and a search for understanding. Loneliness drags on for dozens of pages in this long novel, and ghostly and otherworldly figures become commonplace. Patient readers who enjoy literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Men Without Women</u></a>	Murakami, Haruki	****	<a href="#"><u>6/9/17</u></a>	<p><b>Variety.</b> The seven short stories in Haruki Murakami's collection titled, <a href="#"><u>Men Without Women</u></a>, provide readers with a variety of perspectives on male alienation. Each story offers a close look at interesting characters and the ways they live in the world. I love Murakami's humor and the ways in which he calls attention to details that we can easily overlook. Readers who enjoy Murakami, literary fiction, and especially short stories, are those most likely to enjoy this finely written collection.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>The Strange Library</u></a>	Murakami, Haruki	****	<a href="#"><u>1/23/15</u></a>	<p><b>Alone.</b> I read Haruki Murakami's novel, <a href="#"><u>The Strange Library</u></a>, in a single sitting. I surrendered myself to Murakami's dreamlike narrative as I followed a young boy into a library and became beguiled by everything that happened. I almost felt hypnotized by this story, and I felt as alone as the protagonist facing an odd world. Readers who enjoy novels that have an otherworldly dimension to them and who enjoy myths and fables should find pleasure from reading this short book.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>Earthlings</u></a>	Murata, Sayaka	****	<a href="#"><u>12/21/20</u></a>	<p><b>Outsider.</b> Don't let the cute cover image of Sayaka Murata's novel titled, <a href="#"><u>Earthlings</u></a>, lull you. This is a dark story of a troubled woman named Natsuki who feels like an alien within her own family and society. When in Tokyo, she is scolded by her mother, and abused by a young teacher. She finds refuge during Summer, which she spends on a Nagano mountaintop at the home of her grandparents. Her cousin Yuu and her plush toy</p>	

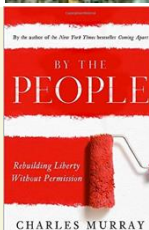
Piyyut claim to be from the planet Popinpobopia and being on the mountain may bring them closer to their real home. Murata pulls readers into Natsuki's troubled and dark life as each succeeding episode makes us understand her difficulties in new and disturbing ways. This novel seems to want to tell us about the troubles of contemporary society and does so in ways that will be haunting for many readers.

Metaphysics as a Guide to Morals	Murdock, Iris	Unread		Having enjoyed many of Murdock's novels, this book has remained unread since around 1994. Even when Murdock died, we didn't pick it up.	
<u>Waterborne</u>	Murkoff, Bruce	***	<u>Aug 04</u>	<b>Flows.</b> Well-written, expansive debut novel of the intertwined lives of three characters and the building of Boulder Dam. Dramatic, powerful, seems as big as the dam itself.	
<u>Are We Rome?: The Fall of an Empire and the Fate of America</u>	Murphy, Cullen	***	<u>July 07</u>	<b>Improvements.</b> Provocative and elegant writing leads readers to reflect on the parallels between America and ancient Rome, and consider the improvements we can make to avoid decline.	
God's Jury: The Inquisition and the Making of the Modern World	Murphy, Cullen	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	



Getting Even	Murphy, Evelyn	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
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John the Revelator	Murphy, Peter	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
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By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission	Murray, Charles	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
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[Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960-2010](#)

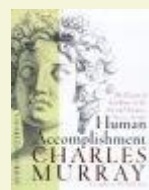
Murray, Charles

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[3/19/12](#)

**Class.** Any reader interested in the current state of American society will benefit from reading Charles Murray's controversial book, [Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960-2010](#). Murray's premise is that our society is divisible by class. There is a new upper class and a new lower class, and he explains why that matters. To eliminate the "noise" he focuses on white America, since some readers may see our class divide as racial. This book carves up a lot of numbers, and he draws conclusions with a libertarian point of view. His passion on this topic comes from the question about whether or not American exceptionalism can survive. Whether one agrees with Murray or not, his concerns about how we may be coming apart the seams are worth considering.



Human Accomplishment: The Pursuit of Excellence in the Arts and Sciences, 800 B.C. to 1950	Murray, Charles A.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
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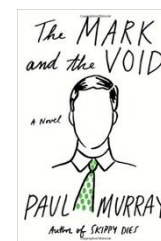
[The Mark and the Void](#)

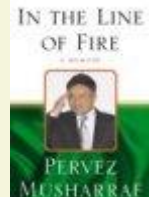
Murray, Paul

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[2/25/16](#)

**Counterintuitive.** By the time I began to feel that Paul Murray's novel titled, [The Mark and the Void](#), was quite a bit too long, I was almost in the home stretch, so I finished reading it. For the first two hundred pages or so, I was delighted and entertained by this comic romp about the serious matters of the global financial crisis and life inside one of the big banks. Protagonist Claude Martingale works in Dublin for a bank with the funny name Bank of Torabundo that pursues a strategy that is intentionally counterintuitive. Packed with deceptions of all sorts, there's a love story here, a satire on banking and the story of an Everyman who led me to root for him. Murray is a fine writer, and his skilled storytelling compelled me to overlook some rocky spots, and stay with him to the end as I was enchanted by this charming and satirical novel.



<u><a href="#">In the Line of Fire</a></u>	Musharraf, Parvez	***	<u><a href="#">Dec 06</a></u>	<b>Integrity.</b> Blunt and entertaining memoir, packed with personal stories of a life spent in risky service to his country as well as instructive sermons explaining Pakistan to the rest of the world.	
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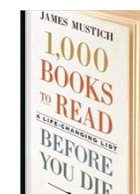
[1,000 Books To Read Before You Die](#)

Mustich, James

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[1/4/19](#)

**Temptation.** I should never have picked up a copy of James Mustich's book titled, [1,000 Books To Read Before You Die](#). In recent years, I've been reading at the pace of about a book a day. My focus has been to try to drink from the fire hose of newly published books and try to select an eclectic sample



to match my interests. I was curious to see how many of Mustich's selected 1,000 I've read during my six decades of reading. While I did not read everything Mustich had to say about each book he selected and referenced (actually about 6,000 altogether), I turned every page and was alarmed by how many authors he chose who were totally unfamiliar to me. I think I've read over a third of his selections. Now I am tempted toward the two-thirds. I sensed a kindred spirit in Mustich when I read his take on diversity in reading appetite: "No matter their pedigree, inveterate readers read the way they eat – for pleasure as well as nourishment, indulgence as well as education, and sometimes for transcendence, too. Hot dogs one day, haute cuisine the next." (p. ix) Any reader looking for something interesting to read can use this book to fulfill reading appetites of all sorts. Will I abandon my focus on new books and turn toward the past to recover what I've missed along the way? Time will tell.



## Steve Hopkins' Bookshelves

Web Page	PDF (Searchable)
<a href="#"><u>All Books Authors A through G</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>All Books Authors A through G</u></a>

<a href="#"><u>All Books Authors H through M</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>All Books Authors H through M</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>All Books Authors N through Z</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>All Books Authors N through Z</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Current Bookshelf: 2021 Books</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Current Bookshelf: 2021 Books</u></a>

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 H 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](mailto:books@hopkinsandcompany.com) to request what you want.

#### Key to Ratings 1999-2012

Outstanding book-read it  
now

\*\*\*\*\*

Highly recommended

\*\*\*\*

Recommended

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#### Key to Ratings: 2013 and after

I love it

I like it

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