

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage by Alfred Lansing

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

Profiles in Courage by John F Kennedy

Buried in the Sky by Zuckerman and Padoan (about the Sherpas on Mt. Everest)

Shadows of Men by Kevin Grauke (13 short stories about maleness at different stages of men's lives)

TransAtlantic by Colum McCann (about different characters between Ireland and USA starting with the 1st WW.)

Flannery O'Connor

Michael Crichton

Charles Dickens

Tarzan by Edgar Rice Burroughs

David and Goliath - a new one by Malcome Gladwell;

Living History by Hillary Clinton early memoirs.

The Leveling by Dan Mayland

Prayer for Owen Meaney by John Irving

Tom Swift

Eternal Wonder by Pearl S Buck

Peace like a river by Leif Enger

Born with no air in his lungs, it was only when Reuben Land's father, Jeremiah, picked him up and commanded him to breathe that Reuben's lungs filled. Reuben struggles with debilitating asthma from then on, making him a boy who knows firsthand that life is a gift, and also one who suspects that his father is touched by God and can overturn the laws of nature. The quiet 1960's midwestern life of the Lands is upended when Reuben's brother Davy kills two marauders who have come to harm the family. The morning of his sentencing, Davy -- a hero to some, a cold-blooded murderer to others -- escapes from his cell, and the Lands set out in search of him. Their journey is touched by serendipity and the kindness of strangers, and they cover territory far more extraordinary than even the Badlands where they search for Davy from their Airstream trailer. Sprinkled with playful nods to Biblical tales, beloved classics such as Huckleberry Finn, the adventure stories of Robert Louis Stevenson, and the westerns of Zane Grey, Peace Like A River is at once a heroic quest, a tragedy, a love story, and a haunting meditation on the possibility of magic in the everyday world.

Rin Tin Tin by Susan Orlean

A powerfully moving account of Rin Tin Tin's journey from orphaned puppy to movie star and international icon. Orlean, a staff writer at *The New Yorker* who has been hailed as "a national treasure" by *The Washington Post*, spent nearly ten years researching and reporting her most captivating book to date: the story of a dog who was born in 1918 and never died. It begins on a battlefield in France during World War I, when a young American soldier, Lee Duncan, discovered a newborn German shepherd in the ruins of a bombed-out dog kennel. To Duncan, who came of age in an orphanage, the dog's survival was a miracle. He saw something in Rin Tin Tin that he felt compelled to share with the world. Duncan brought Rinty home to California, where the dog's athleticism and acting ability drew the attention of Warner Bros. Over the next ten years, Rinty starred in twenty-three blockbuster silent films that saved the studio from bankruptcy and made him the most famous dog in the world.

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy

The sensual, rebellious Anna renounces a respectable yet stifling marriage for an affair that offers passion even as it ensnares her for destruction. Her story contrasts with that of Levin, a young, self-doubting agnostic who takes a different path to fulfillment.

Father Sergius by Leo Tolstoy

Father Sergius is a short story written by Leo Tolstoy in 1873. It follows the path of Prince Stefan Kasatzky who becomes a monk after his wife's affair on the eve of their wedding with Tsar Nicholas I.

The Idiot by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Despite the harsh circumstances besetting his own life -- object poverty, incessant gambling, the death of his firstborn child -- Dostoevsky produced a second masterpiece, *The Idiot*, just two years after completing *Crime and Punishment*. In it, a saintly man, Prince Myshkin, is thrust into the heart of a society more concerned with wealth, power and sexual conquest than with the ideals of Christianity. Myshkin soon finds himself at the center of a violent love triangle in which a notorious woman and a beautiful young girl become rivals for his affections. Extortion, scandal and murder follow, testing Myshkin's moral feelings as Dostoevsky searches through the wreckage left by human misery to find "man in man." *The Idiot* is a quintessentially Russian novel, one that penetrates the complex psyche of the Russian people. "They call me a psychologist," wrote Dostoevsky. "That is not true. I'm only a realist in the higher sense; that is, I portray all the depths of the human soul."

Winter of Our Discontent by John Steinbeck

In awarding John Steinbeck the 1962 Nobel Prize in Literature, the Nobel committee stated that with *The Winter of Our Discontent*, he had "resumed his position as an independent expounder of the truth, with an unbiased instinct for what is genuinely American." Ethan Allen Hawley, the protagonist of the novel, works as a clerk in a grocery store that his family once owned. With the decline in their status, his wife is restless, and his teenage children are hungry for the tantalizing material comforts he cannot provide. Then one day, in a moment of moral crisis, Ethan decides to take a holiday from his own scrupulous standards.

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway

The best American novel to emerge from World War I, *A Farewell to Arms* is the unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse. Hemingway's frank portrayal of the love between Lieutenant Henry and Catherine Barkley, caught in the inexorable sweep of war, glows with an intensity unrivaled in modern literature, while his description of the German attack on Caporetto—of lines of fired men marching in the rain, hungry, weary, and

demoralized—is one of the greatest moments in literary history. A story of love and pain, of loyalty and desertion, *A Farewell to Arms*, written when he was thirty years old, represents a new romanticism for Hemingway.

The Fall of Berlin 1945 by Antony Beevor

Acclaimed for his vivid re-creations of some of the twentieth century's most significant battles, Antony Beevor is one of the best known and respected military historians writing today. He now offers readers a gripping, street-level portrait of the harrowing days of January 1945 in Berlin when the vengeful Red Army and beleaguered Nazi forces clashed for a final time. The result was the most gruesome display of brutality in the war, with tanks crushing refugee columns, mass rapes, pillage, and destruction. Hundreds of thousands of German civilians froze to death or were massacred because Nazi officials had forbidden their evacuation. Hitler, half crazed in his bunker, issued wild orders while Stalin was prepared to risk any number of his men to seize the city before the other Allies could get there. Making full use of newly disclosed material from former Soviet files as well as from German, American, British, French, and Swedish archives, Beevor has reconstructed the different experiences of those millions caught up in the death throes of the Third Reich. *The Fall of Berlin 1945* depicts not only the brutality and desperation of a city under siege but also rare moments of extreme humanity and heroism. This account also contains new revelations about the motives behind Stalin's hurried assault. Sure to appeal to all readers interested in military history and the Second World War, *The Fall of Berlin 1945* promises to be the definitive treatment of the subject for years to come.

We're with Nobody: Two Insiders Reveal the Dark Side of American Politics by Alan Huffman and Michael Rejebian

In politics, finding the dirt is a multimillion-dollar business. It's called opposition research—"oppo" to insiders. Few Americans are aware of its existence, yet oppo has become an integral part of the campaign process, hastening the implosion of countless office-seekers around the country. *We're with Nobody* is the eye-opening account of their life as opposition researchers—a remarkable adventure across the American political landscape and through the often seamy underbelly of U.S. politics. From doing battle with reluctant, sometimes purposefully misleading bureaucrats to arriving in an unmarked police car for a clandestine meeting on the New Jersey waterfront, *We're with Nobody* offers readers a revealing slice of national and political life: a close-up look at today's political process, the fallible men and women we often choose to represent us and the little-understood industry of trying to bring candidates' weaknesses to light.

Upcoming Discussions

Lusitania by Diana Preston 10/15/2012

The Prince by Niccolo Machiavelli 12/10/2012

Previous Discussions

Riders of the Purple Sage by Zane Grey 9/2012

Lamb by Christopher Moore 6/2012

The Lost Majority by Sean Trende 5/2012

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand 4/2012

Stranger than Fiction by Chuck Palahniuk 3/2012

Cabin by Lou Urenek 2/2012

Pine Barrens by John McPhee 1/2012

Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck 12/2011

Fires of Spring by James Michener 11/2011

Catch 22 by Joseph Heller 10/2011
Too Big to Fail by Andrew Ross Sorkin 9/2011
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows 6/2011
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams 5/2011
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain 4/2011
The Snows of Kilimanjaro and other stories by Ernest Hemingway 3/2011
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck 2/2011
Predictable Irrationality by Dan Ariely 1/2011

Tinkers by Paul Harding 12/2010
Tears in the Darkness by Michael Norman 11/2010
A Walk in the Wood by Bill Bryson 10/2010
Three cups of tea by Greg Mortenson 9/2010
True Compass by Edward Kennedy 5&6/2010
Worth the wait 2008 Phillies by Jayson Stark 4/2010
The Next 100 years by George Friedman 3/2010
Homer and Langley by E.L. Doctorow 2/2010
Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer 1/2010

Ragtime by E.L. Doctorow 12/2009
The Right Stuff by Tom Wolfe 11/2009
Dubliners by James Joyce 10/2009
Riding Toward Everywhere by William Vollmann 9/2009
Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell 6/2009
Playing for Pizza by John Grisham 5/2009
How Football Explains America by Sal Paolantonio 4/2009
Dreams from my Father by Barack Obama 3/2009