



Book Reviews and eBooks

Updated: 11-22
[Update this newspaper](#)

Metacritic.com: Book Reviews

Teenage by Jon Savage

Savage, acclaimed historian of the English punk movement ("England's Dreaming"), traces the roots of the teenager as an icon. Delving into film, music, literature, diaries, fashion, and art, Savage documents youth culture's development as a commodity and an industry from the turn of the last century through 1945. [History]

Einstein by Walter Isaacson

Isaacson, author of acclaimed biography "Benjamin Franklin," brings us the first full biography of Albert Einstein since all of his personal letters and papers have become available. [Biographies & Memoirs, History]

The Pesthouse by Jim Crace

Whitbread-winner Crace ("Quarantine") imagines a future post-apocalyptic America in which society has collapsed and its inhabitants scratch out a meager living by any primitive means necessary. The only reasonable hope for survival is a difficult trip east through the environmentally devastated land and passage by ship to Europe. []

Edith Wharton by Hermione Lee

Hermione Lee, the author of "Virginia Woolf", brings us the biography of Edith Warton by interweaving the classic American fiction writer's life with the evolution of her writing. [Biographies & Memoirs]

The Yiddish Policemen's Union by Michael Chabon

What if, as President Roosevelt proposed in 1939, a temporary settlement had been established in Alaska for Jews after World War II? Pulitzer Prize-winner Michael Chabon explores this premise as the context for a noir murder mystery focusing on washed up Detective Meyer Landsman and his attempt to unravel the killing of a local heroin-addicted chess fanatic. [Mystery & Thrillers]

Alexis de Tocqueville by Hugh Brogan

Brogan illuminates the life of Alexis de Toqueville, the French writer whose exploration of liberty and democracy in "Democracy in America" remains the premiere analysis of the early American political system and its guiding political philosophies. [Biographies & Memoirs, History]

A Long Way Gone by Ishmael Beah

Ishmael Beah tells the story of how, as a boy, he fled attacking rebels in his violent homeland of Sierra Leone, and by the age of thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army and became a child soldier, capable of terrible acts. [Biographies & Memoirs]

The Children of Hurin by J.R.R. Tolkien

This prequel to the "Lord Of The Rings" trilogy was abandoned by the author before his death, with the materials eventually culled together into a novel by his son Christopher Tolkien after a 30-year effort. Parts of this story were originally published as the notoriously difficult read "The Silmarillion." [Science Fiction & Fantasy]

The Mistress's Daughter by A. M. Homes

A.M. Homes explores through this memoir what it means to her to be adopted. *The Mistress's Daughter*, an expansion of her 2004 personal essay in "The New Yorker", is also the story of what happened when, thirty years later, her birth parents came looking for her. [Biographies & Memoirs]

How Doctors Think by Jerome Groopman

Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and one of the world's leading researchers in cancer and AIDS, Dr. Groopman breaks down the forces and thought processes behind the decisions doctors make. He explores why doctors err and shows when and how they can -- with our help -- avoid snap judgments, embrace uncertainty, communicate effectively, and deploy other skills that can profoundly impact our health. [Health & Medicine]

washingtonpost.com - Book World

The Writing Life: Karl Taro Greenfeld

Every memoir needs a story. And every story starts with memory -- an image, an idea, a fragment of a conversation, that is added to or subtracted from, until finally some version that feels like the truth emerges.

Orhan Pamuk's Translator Discusses Her Work

It began seven years ago in 2002, during an idle conversation over lunch. My longtime friend and schoolmate Orhan Pamuk had just completed what he described as his first and last political novel.

Washington Area Literary Calendar: Nov. 23-29, 2009

23 MONDAY 7 P.M. David Plouffe , the manager of the 2008 Obama presidential campaign, discusses and signs "The Audacity to Win: The Inside Story and Lessons of Barack Obama's Historic Victory" at the Sixth & I Historic Synagogue, 600 "Eye" St. NW. Tickets for this event, co-sponsored by Politics and...

Poet's Choice: 'Watermelon in the Afternoon' by John Gallaher

Writing the poem was something of a challenge for me, as I had never written a poem opening with the image of grandmothers before, and I wasn't sure how the tone was going to work.

Book Review: Eating Animals by Jonathan Safran Foer

It's tempting to dismiss Jonathan Safran Foer's "Eating Animals" as the product of a cocky, self-involved writer who woke up one day and discovered factory farming. But Foer's particular brand of modernist prose, as made famous in his novels "Everything Is Illuminated" and "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," does serve to bring another round of scrutiny -- and a new demographic of reader -- to the kinds of farms that, as he puts it, "treat living animals like dead ones."

Book Review: Making the Grades by Todd Farley

As college application season hits a fever pitch and standardized tests become the fixation of high school seniors and admissions boards everywhere, Todd Farley's memoir, "Making the Grades," argues for taking the results of these and other ballyhooed exams with a heavy dose of skepticism.

Book review: American Homicide by Randolph Roth

Randolph Roth, a history professor at Ohio State, has studied murder from colonial times to the present.

Book review of *Cowboys Full: The Story of Poker* by James McManus

James McManus tracks the evolution of poque, a French parlor-game that made landfall in 19th-century New Orleans, from Mississippi steamboats to Civil War battlefields to American kitchen tables, the White House and the Internet.

Book Review of "The Pattern in the Carpet: A Personal History of Jigsaws" by Margaret Drabble

If you're the kind of person who likes to do puzzles, especially complicated ones -- 3,000-plus-piece jigsaws of abstract paintings, say, or complicated cryptics from London newspapers -- please don't tell the others.

Book Review: God Sleeps in Rwanda by Joseph Sebarenzi

In his memoir, "God Sleeps in Rwanda," Joseph Sebarenzi presents a thoughtful critique of Kagame's regime. His tale is a provocative warning to the many outsiders who are ready to canonize Kagame.

Book review: Len Downie reviews 'My Paper Chase' by Harold Evans

In this readable, almost wistful memoir, Sir Harold Evans remains the rare self-made Englishman who changed British journalism.

Jonathan Yardley reviews 'U.S. Grant' by Joan Waugh

Thus we have the question that stands at the heart of Waugh's exceptionally thoughtful and valuable book: "Why did Grant's star shine so brightly for Americans of his own day, and why has it been eclipsed so completely for Americans since at least the mid-twentieth century?"

The Writing Life: Gordon S. Wood

The writing of academic history seems to be in crisis. Historical monographs -- scholarly works on highly specific subjects -- pour from the university presses (at least 1,200 or so a year) and yet have very few readers.

Washington Area Literary Calendar: Nov. 16-22, 2009

16 MONDAY Noon. Journalist Steven V. Roberts , currently a professor of media and public affairs at George Washington University, discusses and signs his new book, "From Every End of This Earth: 13 Families and the New Lives They Made in America," as part of the Books & Beyond series at the Library...

Poet's Choice: 'November 11 -- 2004' by Kim Addonizio

The first time I visited The Wall , the Vietnam veterans memorial in Washington, I was overwhelmed by the power of all those names, each name a life lost. But each name also a life honored and remembered.

Book review: 'Bright-Sided: How the Relentless Promotion of Positive Thinking Has Undermined America' by Barbara Ehrenreich

Barbara Ehrenreich's examination of the history of positive thinking is a tour de force of well-tempered snark, culminating in a persuasive indictment of the bright-siders as the culprits in our current financial mess.

Book review: 'Hope for Animals and Their World' by Jane Goodall

In "Hope for Animals and Their World," Goodall, Cincinnati zoo director Thane Maynard and health writer Gail Hudson write of animals on the brink of extinction and the successful efforts to save them, often against opposition by governmental and corporate interests as well as public indifference or hostility.

Book review: 'Molly Ivins: A Rebel Life' By Bill Minutaglio and W. Michael Smith

Politicians might fulminate and readers might complain, but Ivins rose to defend the state of being opinionated: "There is no such thing as objectivity. . . . I actually think it is pernicious as a goal."

Book review: 'Growing Up Bin Laden' by Najwa bin Laden, Omar bin Laden and Jean Sasson

Popular suspicions are confirmed by "Growing Up bin Laden," a repellent but oddly fascinating as-told-to memoir by bin Laden's first wife, Najwa, and fourth son, Omar. Assuming that their accounts, as recorded by Jean Sasson, are truthful, we have an inside-the-tent view of a person so blinded by his cause that he strips himself of all humanity.

MEMOIR

My Prison, My Home One Woman's Story of Captivity in Iran

Book review: 'Logicomix' by Apostolos Doxiadis, Christos H. Papadimitriou, Alecos Papadatos and Annie Di Donna

Though it may serve as a primer on early 20th-century philosophy and mathematics, "Logicomix" is no textbook -- it's a comic book.

Book review: 'America's Prophet' by Bruce Feiler

In "America's Prophet," Bruce Feiler takes his walking shtick to the United States, tramping from Plymouth to Philadelphia to Los Angeles in search of the American afterlife of the leading man in the Exodus drama.

Book review: 'High Society: The Life of Grace Kelly' by Donald Spoto

HIGH SOCIETY The Life of Grace Kelly By Donald Spoto

Washington Area Literary Calendar: Nov. 9-15

9 MONDAY 10:30 A.M. Children's author David A. Carter reads from and discusses "White Noise: A Pop-up Book for Children of All Ages" at Politics and Prose Bookstore, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW, 202-364-1919.

Poet's Choice: 'Terminal Etude' by Alissa Valles

The title of this poem refers to one of the terminals at Fryderyk Chopin Airport in Warsaw, called Etiuda, Ætude.

Book Review: 'The Battle for America' by Dan Balz and Haynes Johnson

"The Battle for America" boldly asserts its own importance in its title, and unlike many such pronouncements, it largely delivers. Through a judicious blend of facts, anecdotes, close-ups and wide-angle shots, it retells the story of the rise of a politician who was by no means foreordained to win the presidency, but is now so ubiquitous that he has nearly trademarked the letter O.

Book Review: 'The Simpsons' by John Ortved

John Ortved's "The Simpsons: An Uncensored, Unauthorized History" gives readers a colorful account of TV's longest-running program.

Book Review: 'The Natural History of Unicorns' by Chris Lavers

A lecturer in natural history at the University of Nottingham, Chris Lavers beautifully demonstrates what natural science and cultural history can show each other about the origins of enduring myths.

Book Review: 'Anne Frank' by Francine Prose

In "Anne Frank: The Book, The Life, The Afterlife," Francine Prose explains some of the many sides of this remarkable story.

Book Review: 'The World Has Curves' by Julia Savacool

When journalist Julia Savacool asked women from around the world to describe their ideal body, diverging portraits emerged, but universally, she found , women's bodies are economic and social indicators.

Book Review: 'Open' by Andre Agassi

From fledgling prodigy to winner of all four tennis major titles, Andre Agassi produces an honest, substantive, insightful autobiography.

Book Review: 'Louis D. Brandeis' by Melvin I. Urofsky

As Melvin I. Urofsky reminds us in this strapping biography, even before going on the High Court in 1916, Brandeis had lent his name to something durable: the Brandeis brief.

Book Review: 'Monument Wars' by Kirk Savage

Kirk Savage writes a superb study of the statues of Washington called "Monument Wars."

Washington Area Literary Calendar: November 2-7, 2009

2 MONDAY 10:30 A.M. Mary Ann Hoberman, the U.S. children's poet laureate, reads from and discusses the new picture book "The Tree That Time Built: A Celebration of Nature, Science, and Imagination" (with poems selected by Hoberman and Linda Winston, and illustrated by Barbara Fortin), at Politic...

Poet's Choice: "Post-Mortem" by Nicky Beer

Several years ago, I saw a fascinating documentary about medical cadavers called "Still Life: The Humanity of Anatomy." The film profiled both the anatomy students who worked with the bodies, as well as a man who was planning to donate his body to science. I was particularly touched by how the...

Washington Area Literary Calendar: Oct. 19-25, 2009

19 MONDAY 6 P.M. Mildred Muhammad, the ex-wife of convicted "D.C. Sniper" John Muhammad, discusses and signs her new memoir, "Scared Silent," at Barnes & Noble-Metro Center, 555 12th St. NW, 202-347-0176.

Poet's Choice: "Rules of Contact" by Jill Bialosky

There is a poetic synchronicity to the game of baseball, to the rhythms on the field and a lolling trance the observer falls under, as the pitcher lobs the ball to the batter, the batter fires one into the field, the fielder catches the ball and blasts it to first.

The Writing Life: Nicholas Delbanco

My parents both were refugees from Hitler's Germany. Separately, they fled and met again in London and were married there; in the late 1940s, they came to America with two young sons.

Book Review: Booker Prize-winner 'Wolf Hall' by Hilary Mantel

Henry VIII's quest to make Anne Boleyn his queen has inspired reams of historical fiction, much of it trashy and most of it trite. Yet from this seemingly shopworn material, Hilary Mantel has created a novel both fresh and finely wrought: a brilliant portrait of a society in the throes of disorienting change, anchored by a penetrating character study of Henry's formidable advisor, Thomas Cromwell.

Poet's Choice: 'Never-Ending Birds' by David Baker

My daughter leaned hard to the side in her car seat, stuck her finger to the window and said, "Those are the never-ending birds."

Washington Area Literary Calendar: Oct. 12-18, 2009

12 MONDAY 6:30 P.M. Actor and director Mike Farrell , known for his role as B.J. Hunnicutt in the TV series "M*A*S*H" and his activism in the groups Artists United to Win Without War and Human Rights Watch, discusses "Of Mule and Man," a collection of his journal entries while on a national reading...

Book Review: 'Crude World: The Violent Twilight of Oil' by Peter Maass

Peter Maass takes readers on a vivid tour of troubled oil frontiers like Russia, Nigeria and Ecuador in "Crude World."

Book Review: 'Cheerful Money' by Tad Friend

American Wasps are now as rare as black truffles, and rarely has their story been told so candidly or entertainingly as it is in Tad Friend's wonderful new memoir, "Cheerful Money."

Book Review: 'Why America Fights' by Susan A. Brewer

Susan Brewer argues in "Why America Fights" that the strategies of presidential persuasion are little more than lies, bluffs and exaggerations.

Book Review: 'Stitches: A Memoir' by David Small

Now that I have read David Small's brilliant and heartbreaking graphic novel "Stitches," I look back on this magical paper frontispiece as one of the more moving self-portraits I have ever seen.

Book Review: 'On Rumors' by Cass R. Sunstein

Cass R. Sunstein's "On Rumors" shows how easily and blindly we adopt certain points of view.

Book Review: 'Why the Dreyfus Affair Matters' by Louis Begley

Does the case of Alfred Dreyfus -- a French artillery captain falsely imprisoned for treason in 1895 -- prefigure the plight of Guantanamo Bay detainees?

Book Review: 'Essays' by Wallace Shawn

"Essays" is refreshingly self-aware and self-deprecating, with Shawn depicting himself as an undeserving everyman with unusually good luck.

Book Review: 'D-Day: The Battle for Normandy' by Antony Beevor

Antony Beevor's "D-Day" pushes up and over the cliffs to detail the bloody two-and-a-half-month grapple for Normandy.

Washington Area Literary Calendar: Oct. 5-11, 2009

5 MONDAY 6:30 P.M. Nicolaus Mills , a professor of literature and American studies, joins Michael Walzer , a professor of social science and the editor of the journal Dissent, for a discussion of the anthology "Getting Out: Historical Perspectives on Leaving Iraq" at Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th St....

Washington Bestsellers/Paperback

Rankings reflect sales for the week ended Sept. 27, 2009. The charts may not be reproduced without permission from Nielsen BookScan. Copyright ? 2009 by Nielsen BookScan. (The right-hand column of numbers represents weeks on this list, which premiered in Book World on Jan. 11, 2004. The bestseller...

Poet's Choice: 'Nude Asleep in the Tub' by Wayne Miller

"Nude Asleep in the Tub" began when I attended an exhibition -- I believe at the MoMA in 1998 -- of Pierre Bonnard's beautiful paintings of interior domestic scenes, many of which are of his wife bathing.

Book Review: 'Hungry: A Mother and Daughter Fight Anorexia' by Shiela and Lisa Himmel

A memoir provides useful information to those suffering from eating disorders and their supportive families.

Book Review: 'Rehnquist' by Herman Obermayer

Herman Obermayer profiles his friend and former chief justice William Rehnquist, who comes off as a regular guy in a robe.

Book Review: 'A Mighty Long Way' by Carlotta Walls LaNier

Carlotta Walls LaNier was the youngest of the Little Rock Nine, whose terrifying experience at Central High in September 1957 became one of the civil rights movement's most pivotal moments. I

Book Review: 'Lies My Mother Never Told Me,' by Kaylie Jones

"Lies My Mother Never Told Me" is an homage to a beloved father, whose legacy Kaylie Jones wants to honor and carry forward, but it also is a revelation of her mother's vicious and destructive narcissism.

Book Review: 'Misadventures of the Most Favored Nations' by Paul Blustein

In "Misadventures of the Most Favored Nations," former Post reporter Paul Blustein extols one of the dream's key tenets, free trade among nations, in this tale about the bureaucracy advancing it: the World Trade Organization.

Book Review: 'The Art of Making Money' by Jason Kersten

In "The Art of Making Money," Jason Kersten tells the story of Art Williams, a maverick counterfeiter from Chicago.

Book Reviews: 'Letters to My Father,' 'The Suicide Run' by William Styron

The more interesting of the two is "Letters to My father," primarily because these letters -- written between Styron's departure from Tidewater Virginia in January 1943 and his return to the States 10 years later after an extended stay in Italy -- describe the younger Styron's literary evolution and because they leave no doubt as to the deep love and admiration he felt for his father.

Poet's Choice: 'Eternity' by Edward Hirsch

Something deeply mysterious happens in reading poetry, something both weirdly familiar and utterly strange. It usually goes unnoticed, unremarked upon. I am talking about the experience of feeling truly recognized and befriended by a poem from the past.

Washington Area Literary Calendar: Sept. 28-Oct.4, 2009

28 MONDAY 6 P.M. The Washington Campus is sponsoring a discussion of the anthology "The World Crisis: The Way Forward After Iraq" (a compilation of ideas from 20 senior statesmen from the United States and Great Britain) with Robert Harvey , a journalist and member of the House of Commons, joining...

Book Review: 'Bicycle Diaries' by David Byrne

Hitch a ride with Talking Heads front man David Byrne as he bikes around Detroit, Istanbul, London, San Francisco, Manila, New York -- you name it.

Book Review: 'No Impact Man' by Colin Beavan

Poor Colin Beavan. Before "No Impact Man," a document of his yuppie family's ascetic "zero carbon . . . lifestyle experiment," even hit bookstores, the project was trashed in the New York Times, which called it "an ethically murky exercise in self-promotion."

Book Review: 'As They See 'Em' by Bruce Weber

Bruce Weber's "As They See 'Em" gives us a glimpse into the heated moments between umpires and managers.

Book Review: 'The Man Who Loved Books Too Much' by Allison Hoover Bartlett

Allison Hoover Bartlett's true crime tale introduces John Gilkey and his bad habit of bibliokleptomania or stealing books not for profit but because he loves them.

Book Review: 'The Healing of America' by T.R. Reid

T.R. Reid has done a service to his nation by showing in "The Healing of America" just how uninformed conventional wisdom is on health care.

Book Review: 'The State of Jones' by Sally Jenkins and John Stauffer

Many of the recreated scenes in "The State of Jones" are not only unconvincing but overwritten and full of false notes that betray an unfamiliarity with the details of farm life, nature and the weapons and battle they purport to convey.

Book Review: 'The Monuments Men' by Robert M. Edsel

"The Monuments Men" profiles the Allied (mostly American) soldiers who rescued works of art stolen by the Nazis before and during World War II.

Poet's Choice: 'Optimism' by Jane Hirshfield

I wrote "Optimism" at a time when the resilience it speaks of was needed. As poets do, I waited for some image or idea to open the hard field those weeks and months were.

Washington Area Literary Calendar: Sept. 21-27, 2009

21 MONDAY 7 P.M. Harvey Cox , a professor of divinity emeritus at Harvard University, discusses and signs his new book, *The Future of Faith* , at Politics and Prose Bookstore, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW, 202-364-1919.

Book Reviews: 'Fidel and Che' by Simon Reid-Henry; 'Fidel and Gabo' by Angel Esteban and Stephanie Panichelli

Two books look at the Cuban leader's personal connections to Che Guevara and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Book Review: 'A Question of Freedom' by R. Dwayne Betts

A "Question of Freedom" is the story of R. Dwayne Betts's time behind bars. Drawn from the journals Betts kept while in prison, the book captures the confused -- somewhat repetitive -- adolescent musings of a boy moving from the simple world of childhood to a complex adult reality, infused with shades of gray.

Book Review: 'Flat Broke in the Free Market' by Jon Jeter

Jon Jeter writes that the advances in globalization have hurt the common working man in "Flat Broke in the Free Market."

Book Review: 'Green Metropolis' by David Owen

David Owen has his advice for creating a "Green Metropolis": Live small, live close, drive less.

Book Review: 'True Compass' by Edward M. Kennedy

"True Compass" is an engaging and at times moving book, but like virtually all political autobiographies these days, it has the air of having been written by committee.

Book Review: 'Dawn Light,' by Diane Ackerman

Diane Ackerman discovers wonder in dawn's early light in her newest release.

Book Review: 'The Lost Art of Gratitude' by Alexander McCall Smith

THE LOST ART OF GRATITUDE By Alexander McCall Smith

Book Review: 'Love and Summer' by William Trevor

A middle-aged woman whispers that "love was a madness" to the young and guileless Ellie Dillahan in William Trevor's new novel, "Love and Summer."

The Authors of the National Book Festival

For the past nine years, The Washington Post and Book World have proudly supported the National Book Festival, which is organized by the Library of Congress, with, this year, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama as honorary chairs.

program participants authors and artists

For the past nine years, The Washington Post and Book World have proudly supported the National Book Festival, which is organized by the Library of Congress, with, this year, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama as honorary chairs. On Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.,...

The Writing Life: Margaret Drabble

Writers of a certain age are tempted by the art of memoir. Memoir, or life-writing, is a seductive genre. We all have had a life, of sorts, so we all think we have a story to tell.

Margaret Drabble: Resolutely Herself

There's a kind of story that is undeniably "Margaret Drabble." In it, an ordinary woman faces extraordinary circumstances. She is fiercely intelligent, her dilemma bracingly modern, her surroundings bristling with life.

Poet's Choice: 'The Edges of Time' by Kay Ryan

If a poem is going to be any good, I have to write it before I feel I should, when I am still quite ignorant of its subject.

**Book Reviews: 'The Adderall Diaries,' by Stephen Elliott;
'Beg, Borrow, Steal: A Writer's Life' by Michael Greenberg**

"The Adderall Diaries" should be a lurid work. Among its unsettling elements are the trial of a computer programmer suspected of murdering his Russian wife and a confession by the programmer's best friend that he killed several people.

Book Reviews: 'The Lion and the Mouse' by Jerry Pinkney, 'The Magician's Elephant' by Kate DiCamillo, 'The Great and Only Barnum' by Candace Fleming

The cover of this beautiful new rendition of the familiar Aesop's fable overflows with the tawny face of a lion whose golden eyes focus on something out of sight beyond the book's spine.

Poet's Choice: 'September, 2001' by Valerie Martínez

This poem was actually written in the first week of September, before 9/11 and after a particularly terrible spring and summer of suicide bombings in Israel. My anger is apparent. I had no idea what was lying in wait.

Washington Area Literary Calendar: Sept. 14-20, 2009

14 MONDAY 4:30 P.M. The Delaware Division of Libraries is hosting a reading by children's writer M.T. Anderson from his new series "Pals in Peril Tales," Jasper Dash and the Flame-Pits of Delaware (ages 9-12), at the University of Delaware, Trabant University Center Theater, 17 West Main St.,...

Book Review: 'Tchaikovsky' by Roland John Wiley

Roland John Wiley's "Tchaikovsky," part of the ongoing "Master Musicians" series from Oxford University Press, is the rare volume that ought to satisfy professional musicians and general readers alike.

Book Review: 'Shake the Devil Off' by Ethan Brown

In "Shake the Devil Off," journalist Ethan Brown takes a close look at two lives tragically lost in Katrina's wake.

Book Review: 'Airlift to America: How Barack Obama, Sr. , John F. Kennedy, Tom Mboya, and 800 East African Students Changed Their World and Ours' by Tom Shachtman

This book fills in a piece of Barack Obama's background. Quite an important piece, in that the subject is the so-called airlift, between 1959 and '63, of hundreds of young Africans to the United States, where they studied at colleges and universities.

Book Review: 'End the Fed' by Ron Paul

Fresh from writing "The Revolution," a bestselling rant against big government, Ron Paul has made that Jeffersonian slogan the thesis of his new book, a meandering diatribe against central planning, inflationary monetary policy and "the swollen ego of a Fed chairman."

Book Review: 'The Hawk and the Dove' by Nicholas Thompson

In "The Hawk and the Dove," Nicholas Thompson, an editor at Wired magazine, skillfully contrasts Nitze and Kennan.

Book Review: 'Under the Big Sky: A Biography of A. B. Guthrie Jr.' by Jackson J. Benson

In this caring yet objective account of the novelist's life, Jackson J. Benson uncovers the passions and demons in A.B. Guthrie's life away from the desk, lending the biography meaning for general readers as well as writers.

Book Review: 'Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression' by Morris Dickstein

"Dancing in the Dark" is a smart, ambitious piece of work, the product of prodigious research and careful thought, and those who read it will come away with a clearer understanding of an important but widely misunderstood period in the country's cultural life.

Washington Area Literary Calendar: Sept. 6-13

6 SUNDAY 12:30 P.M. Children's author and illustrator Sallie Lowenstein , author of *Waiting for Eugene* and *The Festival of Lights* , reads from her book *Sir Kyle and the Lady Madeline* followed at 2 p.m. with a discussion of the origins of her young-adult novel, *In the Company of Whispers* , at the...

Poet's Choice: 'Ethel's Sestina' by Patricia Smith

Herbert Freeman Jr., his mama's only son, had spent his entire life at his mother's side. After she raised him, he moved next door. As she grew frail, he moved in with her again.

Book Review: 'The Miracle' by Michael Schuman

Michael Schuman provides an engaging and readable account of the story of Asia's economic rise with interviews with some of Asia's key policy makers, national leaders and business tycoons. It is economics as biography, character as developmental destiny.

Book Review: 'The Year That Changed the World' by Michael Meyer

Michael Meyer is a very good historian. As Newsweek's bureau chief for Eastern Europe in 1989, he watched the world turn on a dime. The myth he busts in this book concerns the contribution the United States made to the collapse of communist regimes that year.

Book Review: 'To Wake the Dead' by Marina Belozerskaya

Most medieval Europeans cared not a whit for the vestiges of antiquity. Back then, a stone arch was just a stone arch, regardless of its provenance, and in cities like Siena and Rome thousands of valuable statues were left to fade and fracture under the sun.

Book Review: 'Nothing Was the Same' by Kay Redfield Jamison

"Nothing Was the Same" is the story of Kay Redfield Jamison's marriage to the late Dr. Richard Wyatt, a man who overcame severe childhood dyslexia to become a leader in schizophrenia research.

Book Review: 'Parallel Play: Life as an Outsider' By Tim Page

Pulitzer Prize-winning critic Tim Page details his life as a person with Asperger's syndrome.

Book Review: 'Why Are Jews Liberals?' by Norman Podhoretz

Former Commentary editor Norman Podhoretz juxtaposes political autobiography with a history of anti-Semitism to pose a controversial question: Why are Jews liberals?

Book Review: 'L.A. Noir: The Struggle for the Soul of America's Most Seductive City' By John Buntin

John Buntin has made an entertaining tale out of the formative years of Los Angeles in "L.A. Noir."

Poet's Choice: 'Content Is King' by Rebecca Wolff

This is the crypto title-poem of my new collection "The King," which in large part has to do with becoming a mother or otherwise encountering -
- embracing -- objective reality.

Washington Area Literary Calendar: Aug. 31-Sept. 5

31 MONDAY 6:30 P.M. Arturo Escobar , a professor of anthropology at the University of North Carolina, discusses and signs Territories of Difference: Place, Movements, Life, Redes in an event co-sponsored by the TransAfrica Forum and the Network for Advocacy in Solidarity with Grassroots...

Book Review: 'Israel Is Real' by Rich Cohen

The main flaw of "Israel is Real" is that it treats religious faith as a form of madness.

Book Review: 'The Making of Americans' by E.D. Hirsch, Jr.

E.D. Hirsch, Jr. pleads for a coherent, content-based, multi-year curriculum right now to save our democracy from factionalism, inequality and incompetence.

Book Review: 'Cults, Conspiracies, and Secret Societies' by Arthur Goldwag

Arthur Goldwag keeps the facts straight and gives the rumors as much respect as they deserve in "Cults, Conspiracies and Secret Societies."

Book Review: 'The Sisters of Sinai' by Janet Soskice

As scholar Janet Soskice reveals in her luminous new study, "The Sisters of Sinai," Margaret and Agnes Smith had nosed out nothing less than the earliest known copies of the Gospels -- an account written in Syriac, the language likely spoken by Jesus himself.

Publishers Weekly - Reviews News

Nonfiction Book Reviews: 11/16/2009

This week: stars for Lynne Olson's *Citizens of London*, *Daring Young Men* by Richard Reeves, Susan Krauss's *The Search for Fulfillment*, and David Kynaston's *Family Britain: 1951-1957*. Plus: Daniel Menaker, Kathleen Rooney, Larry McMurty, Mikhail Chekhov, Ellen Sandbeck, and more.

Children's Book Reviews: 11/16/2009

In this week's children's book reviews: picture books from Peter McCarty, David McPhail, Sandra Boynton, and Arnold and Adrienne Lobel; fiction from Iain Lawrence, Mike Lupica, James Patterson, and Peter Lerangis; and a round-up of the latest pop-up books to hit the market.

Fiction Book Reviews: 11/16/2009

Reviewed this week, new fiction from Joshua Ferris, T. Jefferson Parker, Stuart Woods, A.L. Kennedy, and Jayne Anne Krentz. Plus, Peter Bognanni chronicles a punk-rock-in-an-Iowa-geodesic-dome adolescence, the aliens arrive in Evan Mandery's smart and funny romp, Bob Morris finds more trouble in the Sunshine State, and Bernard Cornwell delivers another big, bloody epic.

Web Exclusive Book Reviews: 11/16/2009

This week: stars for a look at Fidel Castro by Ann Louise Bardach, Todd McLeish basking with endangered New England sea creatures, a fresh look at problem solving from Ian Mitroff and Abraham Silvers, trial lawyer Terrence Mix on fertility drugs, a women's career guide by Linda Tarr-Whelan, and more. Plus new books on Molly Ivins, Paulo Coelho, Georgia O'Keefe, George Carlin, dogs, death and sex.

PW Talks with Raj Patel

"We need to shun the idea that the only way we can shape the world is through our consumption choices."

PW Talks with Joshua Ferris

"We're always sort of grasping at hope. The answer is always right around the corner, and yet it eludes us."

PW Pick of the Week: Family Britain by David Kynaston

Hail Britannia

Nonfiction Reviews

Starred reviews for: *Still Life* by Melissa Milgrom; *Paper Fortunes* by Roy C. Smith; *Our Times* by A.N. Wilson; *The Harvard Psychedelic Club* by Don Lattio; *Love & War* by John and Stasi Eldredge;

Children's Book Reviews: 11/9/2009

This week's children's book reviews include picture books from Petr Horáček, Laurence Anholt, and Colin Bootman; fiction from Ying Chang Compestine, David Almond, and Margaret Mahy; and a round-up of novelty books for young readers.

Fiction Book Reviews: 11/9/2009

Reviewed this week, new novels from Peter Carey, Alexander McCall Smith, Katherine Center, John Lescroat, and Lori Lansens. Plus, Lindsey Davis takes on the English civil war, Ann Mah sends an out-of-work journo to Beijing, James Greer plots a clever caper, and John McNally digs into writerly envy.

Web Exclusive Book Reviews: 11/9/2009

PW Talks with Jonathan Dee

To the fantastically successful family in Jonathan Dee's *The Privileges*, failure is foreign, and money is not money. Is this perilous? Perhaps.

PW Pick of the Week: The Language of Life by Francis Collins

Nonfiction Book Reviews: 11/2/2009

Stars for Elif Batuman's *The Possessed*, Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*, Sean Carroll's *From Eternity to Here*, Raj Patel's *The Value of Nothing*, Lee Smith's *The Strong Horse*, and Andrew Friedman's *Knives at Dawn*.

Children's Book Reviews: 11/2/2009

This week's reviews include picture books from Alexandra Day, Peter H. Reynolds, and Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney; starred reviews for new fiction from Katherine Sturtevant and Jean-Claude Mourlevat; comics from Lark Pien and Holly Black; and books to invigorate minds and imaginations.

Fiction Book Reviews: 11/2/2009

Reviewed this week, new books by T.C. Boyle, Douglas Preston, Louise Erdrich, Jack Higgins, Jerome Charyn and Jim Harrison. Plus, Rebecca Newberger Goldstein creates an "atheist with a soul," Katherine McMahon unravels a post-WWI mystery, Wallace Stroby kicks off what looks like a promising new series, and Bill Flanagan chronicles 40 years of rock and roll.

Web Exclusive Book Reviews: Week of 11/2/2009

This week: stars for Michael Psilakis's *How to Roast a Lamb*, Andrew Smith's *Eating History*, Peter Nichols's *Final Voyage*, Rebecca K. O'Connor's *Lift*, Desmond Morris's *Planet Ape*, and Sherry Jones's *The Sword of Medina*. Plus: journalist Amy Goodman, conservationist Lawrence Anthony, actor Robert Englund, ex-J.A.P. Lisa Fineberg Cook, international trade expert Daniel Griswold, 60 Minutes correspondent Byron Pitts, and more.

Review of *Roses* by Leila Meacham

This enthralling stunner, a good old-fashioned read, may herald the overdue return of those delicious doorstep epics from such writers as Barbara Taylor Bradford and Colleen McCullough.

PW Talks with John Rich

"Trauma changes the body; it changes behavior and in the social context of poverty and violence, it may be the real thing we have to deal with."

PW Talks with Leila Meacham

Leila Meacham makes a grand return after a 20-year absence with *Roses*, a compelling East Texas saga with echoes of *Gone with the Wind*.

PW - Notes From the Bookroom

What's in a Title?

I think Peter Ackroyd started it in 2001 with *London: The Biography*: that is, the idea that places and things have biographies rather than histories...

The Forever War, by Dexter Filkins

What's in My Bookbag: The Forever War (Knopf, Sept. 17). New York Times reporter Dexter Filkins' account of his time as a correspondent...

What's Your Favorite Guilty-Pleasure Novel?

Yesterday, The London Telegraph published the results of their poll of “the greatest novels of all time.” In the #1 position was ...

Yale University Press at 100

Met with Brenda King from Yale yesterday to go over the press's fall list. The press turned 100 this year, and its upcoming lead title is by n...

Waiting for Sedaris

I spent last night waiting for David Sedaris. The Barnes & Noble in Union Square was the first stop on his 29-cities-in-29-days tour for his ne...

The Good Old Days of Publishing

What's in My Bookbag: Al Silverman's The Time of Our Lives: The Golden Age of Great American Publishers, Their Editors, and Authors (Tr...

How Did You Find Your Favorite Reviewers?

We're going through the 1000+ applications we've received via our call for PW reviewers. Took a break and read Sara Nelson's post re: publi...

Benny Morris and the Israeli Dilemma

What's in My Bookbag: Benny Morris's just-published 1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War (Yale Univ.), in honor of Israel's...

PW's Call for Reviewers!

We're looking for a few good readers here at the Bookroom. Here's our ad on Mediabistro. Reviewers ...

What's in a Review?

It goes without saying that I spend a lot of time thinking about what makes a good book re-view. In general, it requires a smooth blend of descript...

Your First Book

After an article in the NY Times detailing a new openness in discussing personal finances, I feel ok in not letting the topic go. Here's a ...

Future Writers of America

The Junot Diazes of 2028 are already honing their literary skills in high schools around New York City. And I might have just read a short essay by...

The \$ Question (or, The Book of the Month Club)

Recall, friends, that The \$ Question is an occasional feature here on Notes where we talk about how writers support themselves. (Here's the...

Archeology, Politics and Nadia Abu El-Haj

Even normally obscure scholarly books can benefit from a blast of publicity. Witness anthropologist Nadia Abu El-Haj's *Facts on the Ground: A...*

Stick This in Your Pocket and Smoke It

Blistering Ange Mlinko on National Poetry Month: "De rigueur jokes about T.S. Eliot's 'cruellest month' notwithstanding, the Nationa..."

Slightly Excessive

I just got in the review for *Invisible Fences*, a debut horror novella by Norman Prentiss. My reviewer noted that Cemetery Dance is publishing it as...

Down and Out in America

Our April 21 issue will have a q&a with E. Fuller Torrey about his new book, *The Insanity Offense* (Norton, June). Torrey, head of the Treatment ...

Hello?

Read with a smile our Soapbox this week from an anonymous flack. Let me recount a similar anecdote from the other side. I finish a profile;...

Different Strokes

Thanks for all your fascinating comments on last week's "Strictly for the Fans" post! It sounds like readers mostly end up in one of theses...

Help Save RIF (Reading Is Fundamental)

President Bush's proposed 2009 budget eliminates all the funding for Reading Is Fundamental's book distribution program that has, since...

Selling Intelligent Design: If at First You Donâ€™t Succeed...

Trust the intelligent design folks at the Discovery Institute and their ideological kin to keep looking for ways to get ID into the classroom. I...

The \$ Question with Joan Silber

Trying out a new occasional feature here on Notes: The \$ Question. Fiction requires money. This features asks novelists how, at...

Strictly for the Fans

I have one reviewer who only reads stand-alone books, and I'm starting to understand why. This past week I had not one but two reviewers return ins...

We'll Always Have Paris, Thanks to Gregor Dallas

When I lived in Paris during my senior year of college, I had what I thought of as “my” places, which so far as I knew, my friends didn’t...

...You, and Them

Just put the finishing touches on a Q&A with author Darin Strauss, whose third novel, *More Than It Hurts You*, pubs with Dutton in June. H...

NYTimes.com Books

Raymond Carver's Life and Stories

Carol Sklenicka's biography and a long-overdue "Collected Stories" spotlight Carver's growth as a writer and illuminate his poisonous relationship with the editor Gordon Lish.

Andre Agassi's Hate of the Game

Bracingly devoid of triumphalist homily, Andre Agassi's is one of the most passionately anti-sports books ever written by a superstar athlete.

My True Story

A history of memoir, from St. Augustine to James Frey.

Haleh Esfandiari: Prisoner of Tehran

A love of Iran underlies a scholar's memoir of surreal interrogation and solitary confinement in Tehran.

Double Agency

In this novel, British and American spies clash in the buildup to the Beijing Olympics.

Disturbing the Comfortable

Stories rooted in horror, fable and fairy tale, by the Russian writer Ludmilla Petrushevskaya.

Taking No Prisoners

A historical novel about the ferocious Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest and the slaves who followed him.

Return to Progress

Collected columns denouncing the Bush wars and tax cuts and recounting the fits of nerves that President Obama coolly overcomes.

Into the West

A thorough, well-wrought political history of James K. Polk's presidency and the triumph of Manifest Destiny.

A Soldier's Story

A writer revisits the 1918 battle that left its mark on his grandfather.

Word Made Flesh

Questions for, quibbles with and tributes to the sometimes inscrutable protagonist of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The Pain That Binds

In this novel, a girl's disappearance sets off ripples of grief in a small South Dakota town.

A Jaundiced View

The lives — as well as the livers — of the characters in Will Self's beguiling linked stories are in very bad shape indeed.

Books of The Times: 'You Know That Chicken Is Chicken, Right?'

Jonathan Safran Foer uses his literary gifts to give the reader some very visceral, very gruesome descriptions of factory farming and the slaughterhouse.

Colum McCann Wins National Book Award

Colum McCann won for his novel "Let the Great World Spin," while T.J. Stiles won in the nonfiction category.

Library Leader in Era of Change to Step Down

Paul LeClerc announced that he would step down as president of the New York Public Library in 2011.

Books of The Times: The Queasy Side of Theodore Roosevelt's Diplomatic Voyage

This incendiary new book angrily and persuasively connects Theodore Roosevelt's noxious racial views to his foreign policy miscalculations in Asia.

Newly Released Books

Fiction by Penelope Lively, Ha Jin, Lauren Grodstein, Charles Cumming, Paul Auster and Jim Kokoris.

Books of The Times: Gratitude's Grace Can Be Itself a Gift

A scholarly, many-angled examination of what gratitude is and how it functions in our lives.

Cellphone Apps Challenge the Rise of E-Readers

Some readers prefer the convenience of small-screen smartphones to e-readers.

The Pour: An Invitation to Read, Sniff and Taste

Six new books about wine can help the reader to better understand what's in the glass.

Books of The Times: Desperately Seeking Dad: A Murder Mystery

Though Ed Lazar's younger son, Zachary, did not know his father well, he has written a pungent-sounding but maddeningly vague book about Ed's murder.

In Fleury's Memoir, Rangers Years Are a 'Nightmare'

With its revelations of sexual abuse and details of substance abuse, Theo Fleury's memoir has rocked the hockey world as surely as Andre Agassi's recent memoir rocked tennis.

Books of The Times: Memoir Is Palin's Payback to McCain Campaign

Sarah Palin's new book is part cagey spin job and part earnest autobiography. Its most compelling sections deal not with politics, but with her life in Alaska.

Hardcover Fiction

Top 5 at a Glance

1. UNDER THE DOME, by Stephen King
2. THE LOST SYMBOL, by Dan Brown
3. FORD COUNTY, by John Grisham
4. THE HELP, by Kathryn Stockett
5. THE LACUNA, by Barbara Kingsolver

Hardcover Nonfiction

Top 5 at a Glance

1. OPEN, by Andre Agassi
2. HAVE A LITTLE FAITH, by Mitch Albom
3. A SIMPLE CHRISTMAS, by Mike Huckabee
4. SUPERFREAKONOMICS, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
5. WHAT THE DOG SAW, by Malcolm Gladwell

Paperback Trade Fiction

Top 5 at a Glance

1. PUSH, by Sapphire
2. BED OF ROSES, by Nora Roberts
3. SAY YOU'RE ONE OF THEM, by Uwem Akpan
4. THE SHACK, by William P. Young
5. THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO, by Stieg Larsson

Paperback Mass-Market Fiction

Top 5 at a Glance

1. THE ASSOCIATE, by John Grisham
2. CROSS COUNTRY, by James Patterson
3. BORN OF FIRE, by Sherrilyn Kenyon
4. YOUR HEART BELONGS TO ME, by Dean Koontz
5. TOM CLANCY'S SPLINTER CELL: CONVICTION, by David Michaels

Paperback Nonfiction

Top 5 at a Glance

1. THE BLIND SIDE, by Michael Lewis
2. THREE CUPS OF TEA, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
3. OUR CHOICE, by Al Gore
4. FREAKONOMICS, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
5. THE GLASS CASTLE, by Jeannette Walls

Plotting Thrillers in the Fog of China

So much of what is known of China's beating Communist heart is guesswork. But not for the spy novelist.

Crossroads: How Can We Help the World's Poor?

Humanitarians are fiercely divided about what helps poor people. It's clear that doing good is harder than it looks.

Fiction Chronicle

Books by Janet Skeslien Charles, Robert Hicks, Anita Diamant, N. M. Kelby and Rebecca Stott.

TBR: Inside the List

I'm a sucker for tales of extreme weather, so my curiosity was piqued by Linda Howard's "Ice," new at No. 8 on the hardcover fiction list.

Editors' Choice

Recently reviewed books of particular interest.

Paperback Row

Paperback books of particular interest.

The 10 Best Books of 2008

The Book Review picks the best works from the last year.

Holiday Books: 100 Notable Books of 2008

The Book Review picks outstanding works from the last year.

Talk to the Newsroom: Book Review Editor Sam Tanenhaus

Sam Tanenhaus has been editor of the Book Review since April 2004.

New York Times Book Review

Raymond Carver's Life and Stories

Carol Sklenicka's biography and a long-overdue "Collected Stories" spotlight Carver's growth as a writer and illuminate his poisonous relationship with the editor Gordon Lish.

Andre Agassi's Hate of the Game

Bracingly devoid of triumphalist homily, Andre Agassi's is one of the most passionately anti-sports books ever written by a superstar athlete.

My True Story

A history of memoir, from St. Augustine to James Frey.

Haleh Esfandiari: Prisoner of Tehran

A love of Iran underlies a scholar's memoir of surreal interrogation and solitary confinement in Tehran.

Double Agency

In this novel, British and American spies clash in the buildup to the Beijing Olympics.

Disturbing the Comfortable

Stories rooted in horror, fable and fairy tale, by the Russian writer Ludmilla Petrushevskaya.

Taking No Prisoners

A historical novel about the ferocious Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest and the slaves who followed him.

Return to Progress

Collected columns denouncing the Bush wars and tax cuts and recounting the fits of nerves that President Obama coolly overcomes.

Into the West

A thorough, well-wrought political history of James K. Polk's presidency and the triumph of Manifest Destiny.

A Soldier's Story

A writer revisits the 1918 battle that left its mark on his grandfather.

Word Made Flesh

Questions for, quibbles with and tributes to the sometimes inscrutable protagonist of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The Pain That Binds

In this novel, a girl's disappearance sets off ripples of grief in a small South Dakota town.

A Jaundiced View

The lives — as well as the livers — of the characters in Will Self's™s beguiling linked stories are in very bad shape indeed.

Fiction Chronicle

Books by Janet Skeslien Charles, Robert Hicks, Anita Diamant, N. M. Kelby and Rebecca Stott.

Letters: Distress With Benefits

To the Editor:

Letters: Singing Praises

To the Editor:

Letters: Styron and the Bomb

To the Editor:

Letters: The Other He Who Must Not Be Named

To the Editor:

Letters: "Wasp"™ Marches On

To the Editor:

Hardcover Fiction

Top 5 at a Glance

1. UNDER THE DOME, by Stephen King
2. THE LOST SYMBOL, by Dan Brown
3. FORD COUNTY, by John Grisham
4. THE HELP, by Kathryn Stockett
5. THE LACUNA, by Barbara Kingsolver

Hardcover Nonfiction

Top 5 at a Glance

1. OPEN, by Andre Agassi
2. HAVE A LITTLE FAITH, by Mitch Albom
3. A SIMPLE CHRISTMAS, by Mike Huckabee
4. SUPERFREAKONOMICS, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
5. WHAT THE DOG SAW, by Malcolm Gladwell

Paperback Trade Fiction

Top 5 at a Glance

1. PUSH, by Sapphire
2. BED OF ROSES, by Nora Roberts
3. SAY YOU'RE ONE OF THEM, by Uwem Akpan
4. THE SHACK, by William P. Young
5. THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO, by Stieg Larsson

Paperback Mass-Market Fiction

Top 5 at a Glance

1. THE ASSOCIATE, by John Grisham
2. CROSS COUNTRY, by James Patterson
3. BORN OF FIRE, by Sherrilyn Kenyon
4. YOUR HEART BELONGS TO ME, by Dean Koontz
5. TOM CLANCY'S SPLINTER CELL: CONVICTION, by David Michaels

Paperback Nonfiction

Top 5 at a Glance

1. THE BLIND SIDE, by Michael Lewis
2. THREE CUPS OF TEA, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
3. OUR CHOICE, by Al Gore
4. FREAKONOMICS, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
5. THE GLASS CASTLE, by Jeannette Walls

Hardcover Advice

Top 5 at a Glance

1. DIVINE SOUL MIND BODY HEALING AND TRANSMISSION SYSTEM, by Zhi Gang Sha
2. IT'S YOUR TIME, by Joel Osteen
3. GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 2010, edited by Craig Glenday
4. THE PIONEER WOMAN COOKS, by Ree Drummond
5. KNOCKOUT, by Suzanne Somers

Paperback Advice

Top 5 at a Glance

1. WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING, by Heidi Murkoff and Sharon Mazel
2. NEW MOON, by Mark Cotta Vaz
3. THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES, by Gary Chapman
4. RACHAEL RAY'S BOOK OF 10, by Rachael Ray
5. MORE DINERS, DRIVE-INS AND DIVES, by Guy Fieri with Ann Volkwein

Children's Books

Top 5 at a Glance

1. **SPLENDIFEROUS CHRISTMAS**, by Jane Oâ€™Connor
2. **NUBS**, by Brian Dennis, Mary Nethery and Kirby Larson
3. **LEGO STAR WARS**, by Simon Beecroft
4. **THE CHRISTMAS SWEATER**, adapted by Chris Schoebinger from the story by Glenn Beck
5. **THE LION AND THE MOUSE**, by Jerry Pinkney

Graphic Books

Top 5 at a Glance

1. THE BOOK OF GENESIS: ILLUSTRATED, by R. Crumb
2. PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, by Nancy Butler and Hugo Petrus
3. THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ, by Eric Shanower and Skottie Young
4. MARVEL ZOMBIES 4, by Fred Van Lente and Kev Walker
5. BATMAN: CACOPHONY, by Kevin Smith and Walter Flanagan

Crossroads: How Can We Help the World's Poor?

Humanitarians are fiercely divided about what helps poor people. It's clear that doing good is harder than it looks.

TBR: Inside the List

Iâ€™m a sucker for tales of extreme weather, so my curiosity was piqued by Linda Howardâ€™s â€œIce,â€? new at No. 8 on the hardcover fiction list.

Up Front: Stephen King

Raymond Carver's fiction wasn't a major influence on Stephen King when he first read it, he said, "but rereading it for the Book Review piece made a huge impression."

Editorsâ€™TM Choice

Recently reviewed books of particular interest.

Paperback Row

Paperback books of particular interest.

Teleread Blog

Sorry but we couldn't parse this feed.

MobileRead.com

New ebook reader -Simplicit.E.reader

One of MR's more observant members noticed that JCPenney is selling an ebook reader on its website. It's not listed as being in stock, and I spent some time Googling it.

We don't have much detail yet because so far as I can tell this device hasn't been announced yet. I found the company's website, but it's not up yet. I found it in the Google cache.

This is the detail we have so far:

- 5" backlit color screen
- Adobe DE support
- 1GB memory
- SD card slot
- discount coupon for BooksonBoard
- product description says it can "read books, play music and videos"

and it's showing a sale price of \$129.99. If that price is for real then I might get one.

P.S. I'm attaching the JCPenney product page just in case it's taken down.

Update:

I believe the company behind the Simplicit is SPI Inc, a small tech company based in Dallas, Texas. It's not completely clear whether this company develops its products independently or re brands the products it licenses.

Second Update:[/b] I just heard back from Books on Board. Yes, that is their coupon. They were a little puzzled about why the product page was up. The last they had heard was that the device wasn't ready yet. The release had been pushed back until Spring.

Attached Thumbnails

Â

Attached Files

[ebookreader.zip](#) (259.6 KB)

MobileRead Week in Review: 11/14 - 11/21

Feast your eyes on some of the discussions from this week at MobileRead...

E-Book General - News and Commentary

- [Firmware update for PRS-500 available - EPUB!](#)
- [eReader for Android just announced](#)
- [Bookeen releases new model of CyBook: CyBook Gold](#)

E-Book General - Deals, Freebies, and Resources

- [University of Chicago Announces free Monthly ebook](#)

E-Book Software - Calibre

- [Calibre + Dropbox = unclouded happiness](#)

E-Book Devices - Sony Portable Reader PRS-500/505

- [PRS-500 owners: Will you take advantage of Sony's upgrade/trade-up offer?](#)

E-Book Devices - Amazon Kindle

- [Kindle finally released in Canada](#)

Bookeen releases new model of CyBook: CyBook Gold

Our good friend Kurt, from BooksOnBoard, informs us that Bookeen appear to have snuck out a new model of the CyBook, apparently without telling anybody!

The new model, the CyBook Gold, has 1GB storage space (up from 512MB on the previous model), an 8 greyscale eInk screen (previous models supported only 4), and supports ePub and PDF with Adobe ADE. The package includes the CyBook itself, a black cover, earphones, a USB cable, and a European AC adaptor (which will not be supplied to US customers).

The package is priced at US\$349; there appears to be no mention of this device as yet on Bookeen's site.

For more information, please see the BooksOnBoard site [here](#).

University of Chicago Announces free Monthly ebook

The first book in the program is below. epub format

Link http://www.press.uchicago.edu/ebooks/free_ebook.html

The Birthday Book

Edited and Translated by Holt N. Parker

120 pages, 9 line drawings 5 x 7 © 2007

E-book Free! See form below (about e-books)

ISBN: 9780226099774

Cloth \$25.00

ISBN: 9780226099743 Published February 2007

“[Roman grammarian and writer] Censorinus distills the wisdom of several strains of philosophy, extracting whatever seems to have any bearing on births, days and birthdays: theories of the origin of the human species, the formation of the individual foetus, the principles of astrology, the ages of man, the nature of time, eons, centuries, years, months, days and hours.”—London Review of Books

eReader for Android just announced

I just got this email from Fictionwise:

Quote:

> ANDROID EREADER NOW AVAILABLE!

Do you have a Motorola Droid, T-Mobile myTouch 3G, Motorola CLIQ or T-Mobile G1? The wait is over! eReader for Android is now available. eReader for Android is an award-winning application used to read eReader eBooks on Android-based devices. eReader Pro has more features than ever before, including free eBooks, the ability to read dictionaries and more! To celebrate this exciting event, use coupon 'android15' and save 15% off any purchase. see below:

<http://www.fictionwise.com/Z425328TB...androidfaq.htm>

Shiny.

Kindle finally released in Canada

A friend just sent me this link:

<http://technology.canoe.ca/2009/11/17/11774336-qmi.html>

Calibre + Dropbox = unclouded happiness

I'm pretty sure a lot of people here know Dropbox, the (free at first) file sharing and synchronization service...

I use it to sync the files on my two Macs, and my work PC ; it's a very easy to use and efficient service.

Recently, I began syncing my Calibre library, so the books I edit/add/remove on either machine would be available on all the others ; Calibre is a multi-platform marvel, so this syncing makes a lot of sense.

And I thought of something : if I generate the stanza.xml file from the Calibre database (using the calibre-db command), maybe it could be automatically accessible from my iPhone, now that the whole Calibre library is synchronized and available on my Dropbox account ?

Guess what ? It works ! Unfortunately, it's still a manual process, but I'm pretty sure it could be possible for our generous Kovid to change it into something automatic...

Here are the steps needed to make this happen :

1. Publish your Calibre library in a directory of the Public part in your Dropbox account

The library must be in a public part of your Dropbox account, because you will need the URL to the stanza.xml file in the last step. If you do not want to make it public, you will still be able to browse your (private) dropbox account website from inside Stanza, but it's another story...

To get the URL to your Calibre library, simply right-click on a file in the folder and select "Copy public link" from the "Dropbox" menu. Mine is <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/788541/calib...ary/stanza.xml> (fake number, of course).

2. export the Calibre database into a stanza.xml file

Using the following command in the Calibre library folder, generate the stanza.xml file :

`calibredb list --output-format stanza --prefix http://dl.getdropbox.com/u/`

788541/calibre library > stanza.xml

(replace the URL with the one you got at step 1, this one is mine)

3. correct the stanza.xml file

Some characters are encoded in a way that make Stanza frown : simply replace them using a plain text editor ; replace '%28' with '(' and '%29' with ')' (skip the quotes, obviously).

4. configure your Stanza program to make it access your new online library

In Stanza (on your iPhone for example), create a new online stanza catalog and enter the URL to your stanza.xml file (mine is <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/788541/calib...ary/stanza.xml>).

That's all !

Of course, if the stanza.xml file could be generated automatically with every modification of the database, it would be even better, but even now it's very convenient...

Thanks again Kovid for Calibre, the Lexycle people for Stanza and Dropbox for being free...

PS : if I made a mistake in my explanation, or if something was not clear enough, ask questions and I'll be happy to try and explain better...

PRS-500 owners: Will you take advantage of Sony's upgrade/trade-up offer?

Sony has made PRS-500 owners a great offer ([MR News](#) and [Sony Offer](#)):

- * A free firmware upgrade to support ePub, including free shipping, or
- * A trade-in discount on a new device (\$50 or \$75 depending on the model)

What will you do? (Please participate in the poll, and share your thoughts in the thread.)

So now the reality sets in - I don't want to part with my PRS-500, even if I buy another device and the 500 goes into storage in "museum mode"! Am I willing to part with it for a "measly" \$75??? And am I willing to part with the custom navigation hacks just to get e-pub support? Do I want to upgrade - the new devices are a significant upgrade in usability. Or, heaven forbid, after such a nice offer do I want to consider a Daily Reader or even a non-Sony device like the Daily new Plastic Logic large screen device? These are some serious questions!

Can't wait to hear what others are going to do. Share your thoughts!

Firmware update for PRS-500 available - EPUB!

Alas, it's not updateable by user and the device must be sent in.

Quote:

Update your Reader firmware, compliments of Sony.

Sony has created a firmware update for your Reader, allowing it to remain compatible with the new eBook Store format. This update will allow your PRS-500 to support the ePub and Adobe DRM format and add the ability to re-flow PDF documents. Due to the nature of the work required, you will need to send your PRS-500 Reader to the Sony Service Centers for updating.

All you need to do is complete the request for firmware update through the link below, or call 866-962-7669. We will provide you with a pre-paid UPS label for sending in your Reader. You should have your PRS-500 back within 14 days, with the firmware update installed.

Alternatively, you can trade it for a newer model.

Quote:

Trade in for a new Reader Pocket Edition or Reader Touch Edition:
Trade in your PRS-500 when purchasing a new Reader Pocket Edition or Reader Touch Edition. You will receive \$50 off of the Reader Pocket Edition or \$75 off the Reader Touch Edition.

[Linky.](#)

MobileRead Week in Review: 11/07 - 11/14

Another week, another steady stream of e-book goodness here on MobileRead. Our authentic roundup of what's been going on:

E-Book General - News and Commentary

- [Kindle For PC is now available.](#)

E-Book Devices - PocketBook

- [PocketBook 360° review](#)

PocketBook 360° review

EDIT: There is Part II of the review available in the thread.

I was looking for an e-ink device to upgrade my aging Sony PRS-500 reader for quite some time.

Ever since I have seen first proposals for Pocket Book 360° design on [The-ebook.org forum](#) I was planning to get one eventually.

So I did get one. Finally. I purchased an original Ukrainian package from our member [Forgosigan](#).

Originally I wanted to purchase black unit, because I thought the screen would appear lighter when surrounded by a black bezel, and I am used to black reader from my PRS-500 anyway. Forkosigan persuaded me to buy "ivory" colored unit. He said that the text appears blacker on a screen with light bezel. Besides, he did not have any black units left ;-)

I have purchased light colored one and I am happy.

The color of the unit is not bright white, it is light "PC case" beige with pearly - silvery, almost metallic surface. There is grey plastic border around the screen. The resulting combination is very pleasing, and indeed, the letters look *almost* "like lacquered chopsticks on a clean tablecloth" :-)

I LOVE the detachable lid. It protects the screen very well without adding bulk to the device. I like the user replaceable battery. You should update the manual, however, there are no markings at the back of the device indicating that this is the door to the battery compartment and reset button. It is also not apparent how to open the door once you start looking for the Reset button. (I did not need it yet, despite my furious tests).

There is only one thing I do not like in hardware. It is audible click when you press the button. I can still read without disturbing my sleeping partner, but I would have preferred a little bit quieter click.

With a few books in internal memory the device boots in under 21 seconds. It also takes less than 21 seconds to boot the machine with an SD card with over a thousand files on it freshly inserted. I am very impressed. Everything is configurable. You can configure the device to

take you after the boot directly to the book you were reading when you switch it off, and I used that option when timing "cold boot".

When you insert SD card with 10 folders on it and you have another 15 folders with books already in main memory you are presented with a library that combines those top folders, so in a main library you see all 25 folders plus whatever books you have on the root of the card or in the root of the main memory "disk". You do not see folders with names starting with dot (which is standard Unix and Linux behaviour). There is an icon indicating whether the file resides on a card or in memory.

There is another icon present next to file name. No icon means the book was not opened, an "open book" icon means you are reading the books and reader remembers your position, a "checkbox" icon means the book was finished. The states are saved in a file accessible from main memory when you connect the reader to PC, the "not yet opened", "being read" and "finished" flag can also be reset from the menu described below.

You can manage files directly from PocketBook user interface. Just press and hold the OK button to get menu.

you can do following actions

- Open book
- view information and metadata
- mark as Read (or finished)
- File
 - . - rename
 - . - Move to folder
 - . - copy to SD card (or main memory, depending on where the book is)
 - . - Move to SD card
 - . - Delete
 - . - Mark group
- set view for files as
 - . - list
 - . - thumbnails
 - . - details
 - . - set screen orientation (any angle 0, 90, 180, 270, or gyro sensor)
- Sort
 - . - by title
 - . - by author
 - . - by series
 - . - by creation time
- Show names as

- . - book titles
- . - file names
- find book

I haven't, yet, discovered how to create a folder.

There are basically three kinds of book files you can read on PB. Files with rigid layout, such as pdf and djvu files, files that are reflowable, such as fb2, fb2.zip, txt, rtf, html, chm, doc, epub and tcr and comics. In this review I will not talk about pdf files, that will take another long post. I said that pdf files have rigid structure, but according to the manual you *can* reflow, zoom or read in column mode pdf files.

Reflowable files are opened in an application FBReader. FBReader is very configurable. It discards most of the formatting information from rtf, doc and displays text fully justified, in an user selected font.

In FBReader you can configure

- font (face, size)
- encoding (there are quite a lot of options missing, but you can use UTF-8, so I do not see a problem. Encoding options are: auto, Win-1251, Win-1252, Win-1255, KOI8-R, KOI8-U, IBM866, ISO-8859-1, ISO-8859-5, UTF-8)
- line spacing (from 70 to 200%)
- page margins in three steps, starting with no margin
- hyphenations
- line breaks (auto, new line, empty line, line with indent), so PB can display "raw, plain vanilla" Project Gutenberg text file surprisingly well

There are further settings that affect the FBReader under settings icon on the main menu. Among many, many interesting things you can set Appearance - theme, interface font, boot logo, text rendering (Not antialiased, Antialiased, embolded)

Let us get back to the FBReader.

There is a very thin status bar at the bottom of the screen when you read the book, It contains following info:

[page #] / [number of pages], name of the book in a very tiny font, percentage of the book you have read so far, a graphical progress bar, time and battery indicator. When you open the book, or when you change screen orientation or font or size of font there are just three dots displayed instead of page number and progress bar - this is indication that the device is repaginating the book.

You can use custom fonts. Just copy ttf font into Fonts directory on the main memory when you connect reader to the PC. If you provide device with just one variant of the font, the bold and italic text is simulated, just like on Sony reader. When you load all for variants of the font - normal, bold, italics and bold italics the device uses that and you get real italics. (Just have a look at the shape of the 'a' letter to see if you have real italics. See? 'a' versus 'a'. I strongly recommend font Droid that was developed specifically for small displays on Android operating system and released under Apache licence. I very much like the way fonts are displayed, rendered, antialiased, and hinted on PocketBook

I have only one question concerning FBReader for our resident PocketBook resellers. How do I configure FBReader to use left justification instead of full justification? I think have seen description of how to modify a FBReader config file (easily accesible in main memory when you connect the reader) somewhere on the-ebook.org forum, but I can not find it right now.

Another question is, what happens when user deletes system files from main memory? (Do not worry dear readers, there are only some configuration files, files with state of the books and such things in the user mountable main memory, so you can not delete some important system file.) How can this be corrected? Can this be remedied by using "factory default option" oe perhaps by formatting internal memory from Settings or by reflashing firmware? I am NOT going to try, but sooner or later somebody WILL delete some files.

To be continued ...

Now let us see some unpacking photos, shot with a mobile phone camera under very adverse lighting conditions. During weekend I will try to borrow a better camera and make better shots, might be even a video.

Attached Thumbnails

Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â

Kindle For PC is now available.

Amazon has released the oft requested Kindle for PC software. This software lets you buy and read Kindle books on your PC. If you have a Kindle the Whispersync will automatically keep your last read page synced on the device and the PC.

From the Kindle blog:

Quote:

With it you can read more than 360,000 Kindle books on your computer. There is no Kindle required but if you have one, you'll be able to access your library of Kindle books, notes, marks, and more.

Stay tuned, as more apps are on the way, including Kindle for Mac, and Kindle for Blackberry.

To download the software visit
www.amazon.com/KindleforPC

To discuss this news please visit:
<http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=61798>

MobileRead Week in Review: 10/31 - 11/07

Welcome to another digest entry of MobileRead, where we transform the profound into the bite-sized.

E-Book General - News and Commentary

- [Spring Design sues Barnes & Noble over the Nook](#)
- [AddALL E-Book Search with new features](#)
- [Foxit eSlick to suport ePub in Firmware 2.0](#)

E-Book General - Deals, Freebies, and Resources

- [Free one day only--gryphonwood press books at Smashwords \[Offer Expired\]](#)

Foxit eSlick to support ePub in Firmware 2.0

Quote:

In its continuing effort to be the electronic reader of choice, Foxit is expanding eSlick's support for more reading formats. eSlick customers will now be able to view documents in ePub and eReader (PDB) in addition to previously supported PDF and Text formats. The support for ePub and eReader enable customers to read books downloaded from any website which supports these reading formats.

via <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Foxit-...html?x=0&.v=1>

and <http://www.engadget.com/2009/11/06/f...ndle-to-shame/>

AddALL E-Book Search with new features

AddALL, the E-Book search site, has added several new features:

1. many new sites added including:

- 18 USA ebook stores (amazon, b&n, sony ...)
- 7 UK ebookstores (Whsmith, Borders, Waterstones...)
- 2 Aus ebookstores (Dymocks, Harpercollins AU)
- 5 free ebook sites (gutenberg, feedbooks, MobileRead ..)

2. new Amazon and Sony free ebooks monitoring features.

3. Amazon, B&N and Sony bestseller price comparison pages.

With this update, AddALL now searches across more than 30 sites. In addition, they provide an easy-to-use search plug-in for both the Firefox and Internet Explorer browsers.

You can find discussions about AddALL, including some search tips, in these earlier threads in the forum: [New ebook price comparison site: AddAll Ebooks](#) and [AddAll Ebook price comparison](#)

Blogcritics.org Book Reviews

Book Review: Wright On Time: Arizona, Book 1 by Lisa M. Cotrell-Bentley, Illustrated by Tanja Bauerle

"Mommy, when can we be road-schoolers?"

[Author](#) - [Little Jean](#) - [Arts](#) - [Literature](#) - [Kids and Teens](#)

Book Review: War Dances by Sherman Alexie

That's the ultimate magic trick behind a short story and Sherman Alexie is a conjurer without equal.

[Short story](#) - [Sherman Alexie](#) - [Arts](#) - [Short Stories](#) - [Literature](#)

Book Review: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days by Jeff Kinney

If you like a hilarious story about a really dorky teenager and his bummed out life, then Dog Days is for you.

Jeff Kinney - Dog Days - Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days - Kids and Teens - Pets

Book Review: The Dolphin People by Torsten Krol

A post-WW2 story about the civilized world being eaten up by the savage.

Presented By:

Book Review: The Solomon Effect by C.S. Graham

Remote viewer October Guinness uses her extrasensory powers to track the secrets of a Nazi sub with deadly cargo.

Nazism - Politics - Fascism - Arts - Literature

Graphic Novel: Jungle Girl Season 2 by Frank Cho, Doug Murray, Adriano Batista

Jana fights for her life against the horrors of the deep.

[Fiction](#) - [Novel](#) - [Books](#) - [Publications](#) - [Shopping](#)

E-Book Review: Mind Training by Neal Martin

Practical advice for meditation, mind training, and more!

Meditation - Mind Training - Health - Alternative - Author

Book Review: The Social Factor: Innovate, Ignite, and Win through Mass Collaboration and Social Networking by Maria Azua

The Social Factor is focused upon businesses wishing to leverage social media as an addition to their already established business practices.

Business - Social network service - Mass media - Social media - Online Communities

Manga Review: This Ugly Yet Beautiful World Volume One by Gainax/Konomi Project and Ashita Morimi

Alien ingénues discover the glories of this ugly/beautiful planet in this manga adaptation of an anime teleseries.

Manga - Anime - Arts - Animation - Comics

Book Review: Relentless by Dean Koontz

Cubby Greenwich's scathing review of his newest book was only the beginning of the horror.

[Dean Koontz](#) - [Arts](#) - [Literature](#) - [Horror](#) - [Movies](#)

Presented By:

Book Reviews & News - Los Angeles Times

'The Second Plane' by Martin Amis

September 11: Terror and Boredom

It would be too easy to read Martin Amis' slim book on Sept. 11 in a day and to dismiss it with a politically correct glare. The dozen essays, columns and reviews and two short stories in "The Second Plane: September 11, Terror and Boredom" are more illuminating than that, though deeply, sometimes self-indulgently flawed.

'The House of Widows' by Askold Melnyczuk

Family secrets lie at the end of a dark and twisted path

FROM its puzzling opening line ("The most common grammatical error is the lie"), there's an ominous vibe to Askold Melnyczuk's third novel, "The House of Widows," and the sense of unease lingers until the final sentence. It's a mysterious, masterfully taut story in which dread plays a prominent role.

'Marco Polo' by Laurence Bergreen

An account of the adventures of the celebrated 13th century world traveler.

MARCO POLO was only 17 when he departed for China in 1271 with his father, Niccolò, and his uncle, Maffeo. Those two merchants of Venice were known to the boy primarily as storytellers of their fabulous exploits, writes award-winning biographer and historian Laurence Bergreen, for they had been absent more than 16 years, Marco's entire childhood. The pair had followed trade routes east, encountered exotic countries and customs and survived many perils; they had even lived for a time at the court of Kublai Khan, the leader of the Mongol Empire. Eventually they agreed to accompany his emissary west to the pope, vowing to return to Cambulac (Beijing) with several items the Great Khan had requested.



www.feedbooks.com
Food for the mind