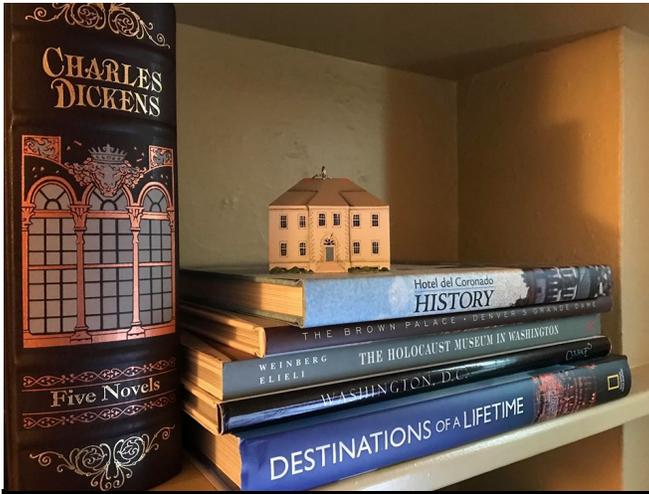


A NOVEL LIST...July 31, 2020



Hello friends!

If you are new to the list- welcome! And, if you have received this before – yeah and welcome back!

Changes from the previous iteration are in light blue.

A change from the past – if I ranked a book with a six or higher, I have listed the title only. Remember – just because I did not care for a book – it may be your next favorite.

I apologize for the industrial style spreadsheet view below, but it is easier to view. As always, all comments are expressly mine.

They have not been copied from any source.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions.

Here's to love and light and reading time!

A room without books is like a body without a soul.

-Marcus Tullius Cicero

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>1 = best</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Year read</u>
Painted Veil	W. Somerset Maugham	1	One of my favorite stories and writers. A very sad love story with incredible character introspective.	1993, 2020
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	2	A beautifully written love story with a bit of horror thrown in.	2019
100 Years of Solitude	Gabriel Garcia Marquez	2	Multi-generational story of the Buendia family in a town that seems both real and as elusive as the Lost City of Z. And, I love the magic/realism combo.	2020
The Bell Jar	Sylvia Plath	2	Intense and shows a raw portrait of the main character as she sinks into depression of which she does not recover. Or does she?	1993, 2019
Circling the Sun	Paula McLain	2	Fantastic telling of a part of the Out of Africa story.	2017
Empress Orchid	Anchee Min	2	I stumbled across this book on accident and could not get enough of the story of The Empress Dowager. I loved how smart and intimately the story unfolded. And, having been to many of the places in 2018 it was that much more enjoyable.	2020

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry	Rachel Joyce	3	Enjoyable story. Love Harold. I did not want this story to end.	2016
A Moveable Feast	Ernest Hemingway	3	The Papa in Paris. What more	2012
Avenue of Mysteries	John Irving	3	John Irving is still relevant and as strong as ever! Maybe too intense for some!	2016
Daisy Jones and The Six	Taylor Jenkins Reid	3	A fluff book I wanted to hate from the get go - that I fell in love with. Listen to this one for the variant and recognizable voices.	2019
Nightingale	Kristin Hannah	3	Two sisters, France and WWII. Beautifully written.	2016
Off the Mangrove Coast	Louis L'Amour	3	Classic without being old, well-written adventure stories.	2013
The Lost Girls of Paris	Pam Jenoff	3	Loved the story. Writing a little weak in places. But with my strong interest in German history, this was very enjoyable. I liked this better than the Nightingale; likely because of the smart girls!	2020
Watership Down	Richard Adams	3	Moving, smart, sad, sweet. Not just about rabbits!	2013
Where'd you Go Bernadette	Maria Semple	3	I loved this book when I read it and could relate. But in watching the movie recently, it made me frustrated and sad. I think when we read something, what is going on in our lives at the moment certainly (even if subconsciously) plays into our forward conclusion. I still like this but it is not for everyone. I recommend this to a friend last year and she has not looked at me the same since (she hated it).	2015
A Fierce Radiance	Lauren Belfer	4	A fair story of post-Pearl harbor bombing in the eyes of a female reporter. Sex, murder, mystery and intrigue.	2013
Eleanor and Park	Rainbow Rowell	4	This book was a fun filled, relatable teen-age trip to the amusement park pleasure ride. Pleasantly surprised - esp that I enjoyed this YA book so much.	2017
Freud's Mistress	Karen Mack	4	I enjoyed this well-written story but it did not change my mind about Freud. While rooting for Minna, I felt sorry for her and think she was just another pawn in his highly-inflated ego game.	2020
Leaving Time	Jody Picoult	4	Very simple and predictable story...except when its not. The elephant education was very thorough and interesting, and the mystery was well-embedded. Picoult is obviously a rockstar writer of our time and I can always recommend her.	2020
The Last Empress	Anchee Min	4	The sequel to Empress Orchid, this story reads more like a history book. The narrative felt secondary to crammed in history of a tumultuous, varying and integral part of China's more semi-recent history. Ms. Min crammed so much in that the Empress was teetering on the edge in terms of relatability and connection to the reader.	2020
The Little Paris Bookshop	Nina George	4	I thoroughly enjoyed this easy little read. Would recommend.	2018

Before the Fall	Noah Hawley	5	Enjoyable suspense read.	2018
Finding Dorothy	Elizabeth Letts	5	A bit cumbersome. But, a beautiful love story to the personal life of Frank Baum. Any Wizard of Oz fan should read!	2020
Talking to Strangers	Malcom Gladwell	5	Even for Gladwell, this was a bit jumpy to me and I did not agree with several of his conclusions. The least favorite of his books, it still embodies some classic Gladwell language. Wish I had listened to all of it as he read it. Much better than a read version and this is a very rare exception to that (the only other two I feel this way about are on this list). It pains me to rate this as I did.	2020
The Sunday Philosophy Club	Alexander McCall Smith	5	First book in the Sunday Philosophy Club Series. This was my first AMS book and it was tidy and simplistic. I would read another one of these.	2020
Loving Frank	Nancy Horan	x	x	2013
The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto	Mitch Albom	x	x	2017
What Really Happens if you Get Swallowed by a Whale...	Cody Cassidy and Paul Doherty, PhD	x	x	2020
Chocolate, Friends, Lovers	Alexander McCall Smith	x	x	2020
The Big Sleep	Raymond Chandler	x	x	2020
Alone Time	Stephanie Rosenbloom	x	x	2020
In Hoffa's Shadow	Jack Goldsmith	x	x	2020
Rainwater	Monica Shaw	x	x	2017
Stone Mattress	Margaret Atwood	x	x	2020
Eligible	Curtis Sittenfeld	x	x	2016
The Whisper Network	Chandler Baker	x	x	2019
Dr. Mary's Monkey	Edward T. Haslam	x	On deck	2020
Americanah	Chimamanda N. Adichie	x	On deck	2020
Rebecca	Daphne du Maurier	x	On deck	2020
The Artist's Way	Julia Cameron	x	On deck - I have been told by a number of people over the years I need to read this book. So finally.	2020
The Sound of Paper	Julia Cameron	x	On deck	2020
The Trial	Franz Kafka	x	On deck	2020



From July 2012:

Favorite Books of all time

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, James Joyce
A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens
Les Miserables, Victor Hugo
The Agony and the Ecstasy, Irving Stone

Favorite Authors of all time

Charles Dickens
Robert Frost
Edgar Allen Poe
Shakespeare

Recommended

Truth & Beauty - Ann Patchett - (March 2012) - Ann pens a heartfelt and beautiful memoir about her friend, poet Lucy Grealy. Our eyes are opened to the struggles Lucy had, physically, mentally and emotionally in this life, but also brings a very strong and giving friendship to life.

The Lost City of Z - David Grann - (January 2012) - A fascinating story of the journeys of Percy Fawcett, as he travelled to South America from the years 1906 - 1925 in search of the rumored Lost City of Z. So much better than the movie.

People of the Book - Geraldine Brooks - (May 2012) - I thought this book was inadequately named to generate interest and can think of a number of more fetching titles, but that is not my job! The unique and fantastic history of the real-life Sarajevo Haggada is enhanced in this tale of imagined characters, all of who played a role in the Haggada's delicate history and travels to Sarajevo.

The Paris Wife - Paula McLain - (February 2012) - The story of Elizabeth Hadley Richardson's brief marriage to Ernest Hemingway. This fictional yet carefully woven tale gives us a glimpse into the Modernism movement of American writers in Paris in the 1920's, which included Joyce, Plath, Hemingway, Fitzgerald and others. Upon completing this book, I wanted to wear a t-shirt stating I am a fan of Hadley. The Hadley Club! You heard it here first.

Evangelista's Fan - Rose Tremain - (January 2012) - Beautiful collection of thoughtful short stories; with brief sentences and imagery that sticks in your head long after the story is concluded.

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle - Barbara Kingsolver - (February 2010) - This book should be in everyone's kitchen and philosopher's library.

The Girl Who Played with Fire and **The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets Nest** - Stieg Larsson - (May 2012) - It is a shame the world will not have the privilege of Mr. Larsson's powerful prose to enjoy ever again.

The Life of Pi - Yann Martel - (2002)

The Red Tent - Anita Diamant - (2011)

Don't Sleep, There are Snakes - Dan Everett - (May 2012)

The Secret Magdeline - Ki Longfellow - (2011)