

2018 AUG

Old Scores

By Will Thomas

Newest book in the Barker & Llewelyn series. Takes place in 19th century London As always quite extraordinary. There were separate sections of the city that were mostly Jewish or mostly Chinese etc. So a lot of the stories have come up because of the culture of that particular area. The characters maintain their natures all the way through. The narrator is a young (24) his boss is about 20 years older. He grew up in China so he's very good at Chinese and excellent at particular kinds of fighting. The narrator is always learning things- he's not naive but he's close to it. You see the culture of the time. The author has done enough research into the people who existed at the time and uses those people in the book. The two main characters are invented but he uses real historical people as well.

The Sharper Your Knife, the Less You Cry: Love, Laughter, and Tears in Paris at the World's Most Famous Cooking School

By Kathleen Flynn

A Memoir - She's living in Paris- she was working in middle management in London when she gets fired. She calls her boyfriend living in Seattle. She says I'm thinking maybe I'll move to Seattle. He says he thinks that's not a good idea- she should take money from saving and study at Le Cordon Blue like she always wanted and he'll join her in Paris when he's ready. Her desire to study at Le Cordon Blue started when she worked at a newspaper as the obituary writer when she typed in the shortest obituary she'd ever written. She decided then she wanted hers to read that she got a degree from Le Cordon Blue. There's fun stuff about the school and how tough it is. She's getting by on the French she learned in high school. They have a translator only for the first two semesters, but they're only there for the lesson not after. So she couldn't tell what the instructors were saying. The boyfriend eventually joins her in Paris. A fun and not a weepy sad book.

Baltasar and Blimunda

By Jose Saramago

The author cuts out a lot of punctuation- he uses commas instead of periods. Once you get into the feel of it you can follow it. Won 98 Nobel prize for literature. The two main characters work

with a man who was a historical figure - priest. Set in 1700s. Invented a flying machine. The book is about the couple who helped him build the flying machine. Suspect to the inquisition

The Color of Water

By James Macbride

His mother was raised an Orthodox Jew who ended up marrying a black man in the 40s and having 12 children. She managed to put all of her kids through college. Her first husband died when she was pregnant with James. She became a Christian and her husband was a Christian and the two of them formed a church in New York. Some chapters are narrated by his mother and some by him.