

Booklover's Café
May 28th 2016

Available Dark

By Elizabeth Hand

Not normal- not sweet books. Horrendous- really dark.

Generation loss was the first book in a series- part of it takes place in Maine.

Available Dark – very intense but it sucks you in and you want to find out how it unravels. In a twisted way it has a satisfying ending. A lot of people don't make it.

The eye of the leopard

By Henning Mankel

Violence in Africa in post independent Zambia

Swedish protagonist- in a very non-functional family. Father is drinking himself to death, mother walked out. The protagonist ends up fleeing Sweden and going to Zambia- gets hired to work as an undermanager of an egg farm. He stays till some horrendous things happen to the neighbors and then goes back to Sweden.

Writing is so luminous and non-judgmental and clear. Absolutely love the way he writes. He's an extremely moral person and that's what comes through in his stories.

LOL: Commedia Dell'Arte Ten scenarios for Adventurous Actors

By Jon Potter

The form of theater the actors invent what they say and do, but the plot is there. The form is about 400 years old, it's been very popular in Europe.

The Distant Hours

by Kate Morton

About a young woman at her moms house when a letter arrives that has been lost- delivered 20 years or so later. Her mom bursts into tears when she sees the letter but won't tell her daughter why. She's an editor for a publishing company. she notices that the address is for Milderhurst Castle. She ends up getting lost looking for a client and sees the name, and goes to investigate. Meets 3 women, and one of them calls her by her mother's name and talks to her as if she were her mother. She finds out that during the blitz her mother was sent there. She's trying to put together the pieces. It becomes more and more mysterious.

Cain at Gettysburg

Audiobook

By Ralph Peters

Rough book to listen to - goes back and forth between the North and the South. Violent portrayal - horrendous three days. Great way to hear what was going on. Really puts together what went on over those three days. It's fictionalized, but really a good representation of what happened.

Nobody's Fool

By Richard Russo

Always found Russo interesting- it's almost like the ship of fools. A community of the same characters interacting. Russo's work is so infused with humor, even when he's dealing with heavily thematic stuff. He handles humor beautifully. Central character in Nobody's Fool is a really mixed bag- very unusual guy. Someone who was an underachiever

but would also rise to the occasion.

The Straight Man

By Richard Russo

Central protagonist is a college professor at a community college. His son adopts an old dog- the dog dies and the son is really invested in the dog- so the professor goes out and digs a hole and buries the dog. The child never knows what happened to the dog. Nonstop humor. Incredible writing and structure.

Deer Hunting with Jesus

by Joe Bageant

Author leaves the area he grew up in and becomes a journalist. He returns to his town in his 50's touching on upper middle class. Talks about the conservatism of those people. His brother is a fundamentalist minister. Goes back to his family who has stayed there and he stays for a while and writes about the town and community and illuminates poverty, politics, and religion. His writing is just unbelievable. It's impossible to describe. His use of language is extraordinary. It's perfect for portraying the people and the lifestyles.

Territory in Bird Life

By Henry Elliot Howard

Edward T. Hall

The Hidden Dimension

“An examination of various cultural concepts of space and how differences among them affect modern society. Introducing the science of "proxemics," Hall demonstrates how man's use of space can affect personal business relations, cross-cultural exchanges, architecture, city planning, and urban renewal.”

The Silent Language

By Edward T. Hall

“Leading anthropologist Hall analyzes the many aspects of non-verbal communication and considers the concepts of space and time as tools for transmission of messages. His stimulating work is of interest to both the intelligent general reader and the sophisticated social scientist.”