

Booklover's Café  
March 25th 2017

### The Obituary Writer

By Ann Hood

Two stories intertwined- a woman in 1960 just as JFK is about to be inaugurated, and she's married but been having an affair. She's pregnant and believes the baby is her lover's baby. Intertwined with a woman in 1919 who is an obituary writer, but has been on a quest since the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 to find her lover who went missing after the earthquake. There's a surprising connection. Didn't exactly go where you thought it would. Felt like there was a nice message about maybe sometimes you should just make the best of what you have.

### A Great Reckoning

By Louise Penny

Excellent. Gamache's involvement in the book is key. I love the way she writes- enjoyable to read. Don't know where she comes up with the ideas that she does. I recommend it highly. I didn't want it to end.

### A Divided Command

By David Donachie

About people pressed illegally into the British navy during the time of the French revolution. Tremendous amount of back and forth material between the French and British navy- trying to control shipping. Fabulous series. You think the characters would be pretty obvious but they're not. Central character is of Scottish origin- the son of a political speaker who would wander about in England and had to escape to France. There is a lot of mayhem going on. Other members of the group took refuge in a small area next to the Thames River which had been part of a nobleman's estate and therefore was free of English law. The central character meets a lot of the characters by being in the pub on the estate and the British navy sent a crew to seize as many men as they could (illegally). They end up on a ship- none of them knows much about anything about the ship. They have to learn how to work on a ship which is fascinating. You see British culture, shipboard culture, French culture. Deep and not obvious.

### Love and Ruin

Edited by Evan Ratliff

From the Atavist Magazine- an atavism is a reversion to a lost trait in a modern lineage.

Series of short stories that were online.

When We Were Called to Part by Brooke Jarvis. About Molochoi Island in Hawaii. Sobbing. It's very honest amazing writing. They're almost like a novella some of them. All beautifully written. Highly recommend this book.

### The Road from Coorain

By Jill Ker Conway

Memoir – She ended up as the first female president of Smith College. Fascinating-excellent writing.