

2018 March

Sharpe's Battle

By Bernard Cornwell

About halfway through the series of 21 novels with the character. Basically a history of the Napoleonic wars. Central character started off very poor with no money or family or anything. In order to get food he joined the army and then worked his way up to becoming a lieutenant. We see this character and his Irish sergeant as they work their way through the battles that the French are conducting. Each of the significant battles that happened Sharpe is involved in, and in back of every book is a historical note where he goes through the actual history.

The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating

Elizabeth Tova Bailey

The book is about woman whose friend brought her a little pot of Violet's when she was ill. She woke up in the middle of the night to this little sound of a snail munching on the leaves. Her observations of the snail and the company he afforded her are beautiful. Very intelligent and a deep thinker. Her relationship with this snail is so lovely. Absolutely Beautiful.

My Grandmother wants me to tell you she's sorry

By Frederic Bachman

Wonderful. A story about a girl who's seven named Elsa who loves to read. She's read all of the Harry Potter books. She's extremely unpopular at school and her only friend is her grandmother who is a kook. She shoots paintballs out the window she swears. She's probably what most people consider unsuitable to be spending so much time with a child. She tells her stories about a land where the little girl is a knight. She's dying of cancer and she tells her granddaughter she has letters she must deliver. As the girl goes out on the quest bringing letters to all the neighbors all this other information is revealed and it gives you and the little girl a whole different perspective on the grandmother.

Big trouble

By Dave berry

A slapstick thriller set in Florida, featuring oddball characters. They include a homeless man who lives in a tree, a student with a squirt gun playing a game called Killer, a couple of real killers, and a terrorist with a nuclear bomb in a suitcase.

Grace

By Paul Lynch

Language is just gorgeous. When I first started reading it it didn't grab me right away but I was held there by the unbelievable language. It's about the famine in Ireland and a woman who has a family who has no food and no money. Takes her older 12 year old daughter and cuts her hair and gives her boys clothes and tells her to make her way out in the world. Goes through her adventures. After maybe 30-40 pages in I was totally hooked. I loved her ingenuity and stubbornness. I thought it was wonderful and I really really enjoyed it.

Dark Money

Jane Mayer

A popular uprising against "big government" led to the ascendancy of a broad-based conservative movement. But Mayer shows that a network of exceedingly wealthy people with extreme libertarian views bankrolled a systematic, step-by-step plan to fundamentally alter the American political system. Their core beliefs-- that taxes are a form of tyranny; that government oversight of business is an assault on freedom-- are sincerely held. The chief figures in the network are Charles and David Koch. Mayer traces the trail of the billions of dollars spent by their network, and provides vivid portraits of the colorful figures behind the new American oligarchy. Gives you such a background of how we got where we are. She's such a great writer and does a great job.

Black Jacks : African American seamen in the age of sail

By W. Jeffrey Bolster

Documents African American sailors. Originally the communities aboard the ships were far more democratic. After the civil war there was a lot less acceptance of black sailors. He does a great job of documenting the various ports they sailed from also those aboard ships who had to go to the south who were apt to get taken when the ship was in port and taken into slavery. "*Black Jacks* examines not only how common experiences drew black and white sailors together—even as deeply internalized prejudices drove them apart—but also how the meaning of race aboard ship changed with time. Bolster traces the story to the end of the Civil War, when emancipated blacks began to be systematically excluded from maritime work."