

The Agony House

by Cherie Priest

I love her book "I am Princess X" and her steampunk zombie novel. This book is completely different. It's a ghost story set in New Orleans about a girl who was displaced by hurricane Katrina. She moves back with her family to a haunted house they plan on turning into a Bed and Breakfast. She finds a comic book that had never been published with her friend. The book has clues that seem to keep trying to kill them. I liked that the novel was a combo novel/graphic novel. It takes about New Orleans and the local life after Katrina, and the gentrification. There are also neat messages about gender roles and female empowerment.

The Unconscious Civilization

by John Ralston Saul

"Knowledge, The Enlightenment believed, could protect us from the follies of ideology. But Saul maintains that 'knowing' has not made us 'conscious'. Instead we have become increasingly passive, our society increasingly conformist. These are no easy solutions to this problem, Saul say, but change is still possible. "

Unintended Consequences: the United States at War

by Kenneth J. Hagan and Ian J. Bickerton

This book takes each war the US has engaged in and talks about the war and how it started, and the aftermath of each war. What they're really concluding is the similarities between the wars going back to the revolution. The rhetoric Polk used to support the Mexican-American War was remarkably similar to what Bush used to get us into the Iraq war. Bottom line- things don't change that much. We go back and make the same mistakes over and over again.