

Go set a Watchman by Harper Lee, and Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee by Charles J. Shields

The biography was helpful with illuminating her life and different characters. It helped to understand her and her life.

The Biography talks about her relationship with Truman Capote.

I could see where she had written go set a watchmen first- and see how they could have said to her to take the childhood episodes and write a book about that.

Really enjoyed it.

Savage Beauty: The Life of Edna St. Vincent Millay- by Nancy Milford

Biography on Frances Perkins

She went to mount Holyoke and was born in Massachusetts, but had a home in Newcastle. It was a big brick house built for her grandmother by grandfather- he had a brick business. Her grandson now owns it- It's set up to become a historic museum.

Frances Perkins looks kind of dowdy in pictures- she knew what a hard time she would have among men- men will respect their mothers so she made a deliberate effort to look like them. She wore a tri cornered hat that would offset her wide cheekbones as suggested by her mother. Her crowning achievement was social security law. She was in NY in 1911 and witnessed the triangle fire, which greatly influenced her political achievements.

Strangler Vine by M. J. Carter

Takes place in India when the British East India Company was "The Company" and had their own armies- they were trying to take over India- ruling as a corporation. The book is set up so the narrator is a young man in a British family sent to the company he was a younger son who would not inherit land. He was summoned to get a man, Jeremiah Black, to report to the company- he had "gone native" and married a native Indian woman. Understands the people. Given a mission to go find the foremost poet of the time who had offended all these elites for writing an epic poem referring to a scandal. He's gone missing.

So interesting- a novel that becomes more complex as it goes along great descriptions of things- great details, fascinating, highly recommend.

Traitor's Blade by Sebastian de Caste

Medievalist, not quite fantasy. Fantastic surprise – created a country with a king, nobles, dukes, knights, peasants, villages –one issue that has come up is there was no way to reinforce the laws – so the king recruited some extremely smart or talented men and women in a group given special coats made of leather and have braces made from bone on the inside where you can't see- works as armor- not easily pierceable. Go around and listen to both sides of arguments and make a decision. About a dozen at the start. Political problem the center of the issue- gets very dangerous- a lot of fun thrilled to have read it-

Next book is twice as thick- follows many of the same characters- follows two swordsman and an archer.

Interesting and funny.

The Patriarch by Martin Walker

Symbolic central character involved in the history of France and the soviet union- France supported the soviet union near the end of the war and sent pilots – the central character really tied into the elite in France – central character Bruno- far from typical policeman, chief of police

in relatively small village but he's well educated cosmopolitan- well suited to go into a position but wanting to stay in the countryside- food, wine, hunting,
Casual entertainment of people coming by- incredible
Bruno – self-effacing kind of guy- understated in many ways
Very nice view of a French village after WWII

You're Never Weird on the Internet (Almost) A Memoir by Felicia Day
Really funny, honest, geeky book about Felicia Day's life growing up, and her anxieties and troubles.
Highly recommended.