

The hidden life of trees – Peter Wohlbehen Bet you didn't know trees were so complex.

Dirt is Good! – Jack Gilbert From an immune perspective it is.

When Breath Becomes Air – Paul Kalanith A doctor writes on his impending death

The Skeptical Environmentalist – Bjorn Lombory A look at the environmental stories the media and groups like Green Peace won't tell you.

Arrest Proof Yourself – Dale Carson Hopefully you'll never have to use them: by a former FBI/cop/lawyer

400 Things Cops Know – Adam Plantinga More: Hope you don't have to use these.

The Loyal Son – Danial Mark Ben Franklins little known son: true story

Two Years Before the Mast – Richard Henry Dana Jr. True story of a Harvard student who takes 2 years off to sail around the world.

Salt – Mark Kurbansky A history of a material we take for granted.

He's Back – Timur Vermes A fiction laugh out loud as Adolf Hitler returns from the dead and is mistaken for the greatest impressionist in the world.

Visions of a Flying Machine – Peter Jakab The story behind the Wright brother's conquest of the air. It wasn't easy.

The taking of K-129 – Josh Dean True story recovery of a nuclear armed Russian sub from 3 miles down in the Pacific

Collapse – Jared Deamond Depressing stories of human kinds stupid environmental decisions

Dead Reckoning – Helen Whybrow (ed) Lots of people who were way tougher than I could ever be.

Bearing False Witness – Rodney Starr De-bunking accepted facts that our culture takes without question.

Crossing the Tiber – Stephen Ray True story of an evangelical protestant investigating early Christianity and converting to Catholicism

When Asia Ruled the World – Stewart Gordon History of a part of the world that I knew very little about.

How we die – Sherwin Nuland We all have to do it: Medical facts on death

Barking to the choir – Gregory Boyle SJ A Jesuits life ministering to street gangs.

Walden – Henry David Thoreau I'd never read it. Beautiful.

The Poisoners Handbook - Deborah Blum The development of forensic chemistry.

Would you baptize an extraterrestrial? - Guy Cosolnagio SJ and Paul Mueller SJ Theological speculation about extraterrestrial life.

I killed Pluto (and why it had it coming) – Mike Brown we went suddenly from 9 planets to 8. Here's why.

No Beast so Fierce – Dane Huckelbridge True story of a tiger that killed and ate over 400 people.

The Rituals of Dinner – Margaret Visser A VERY detailed history of manners

The Radium Girls – Kate Moore Sad but true story of Radium poisoning

No Man is an Island – Thomas Merton Merton's musings on John Donne as he applies Donne to monastic communities

Hamilton – Ron Chernow Tried watching the abomination of a woke play. Gave up. Read the book. Reading was MUCH better.

Goodbye to All That – Robert Graves Based on real experiences this book is not as well-known as All Quiet on the Western Front. Well worth reading.

Grant – Ron Chernow Another great bio.

Memoirs – U. S. Grant Great book of the Civil War.

Sherman's Memoirs – W.T. Sherman Another great Civil War book.

The Great Influenza – John Barry Read by George W it prompted the establishment of a \$9B fund to deal with such plagues. COVID took too long to arrive so Congress raided it and we paid the price.

American Dirt – Jeanine Cummins Read it. It gives a very different view of illegal immigrants.

The Conquering Tide - Ian Toll 3-part series on the war in the Pacific. Well worth it.

The Silent Patient – Alex Michaelides Fiction. The ending blindsided me completely. Highly recommend

Woke Fragility – The Tired Moderate Had read White Fragility – Robin DiAngello Then tried this. I deal with this in teaching. A lot. I can laugh at the former (parody of the latter) but the latter was written by a SJW who apparently makes a lot of money and could care less about facts or impacts on society. All I can say is I'll give up my cis gendered, hetero normal, white male, monied privilege when they pry it out of my cold dead hand.

Benjamin Franklin – Walter Isaacson Another great bio.

Dead Mountain – Donnie Eicher The mountain (In Russia) is locally called “Don't go there!” True story of a hiking expedition that died under bizarre circumstances.

The splendid and the vile – Erik Larson Great bio about Churchill

How to teach your dog Quantum Mechanics – Chad Orzel You can learn it too!

Dead Wake – Erik Larson The story of the Lusitania: Churchill at far less than his best.

The Madness of Crowds – Douglas Murray If you don't understand cancel culture this will help.

Project Hail Mary – Andy Weir. A friend of mine recommended it as she knew I was teaching a course on relativity. Scientific accuracy from the author of “The Martian”. Fiction but very interesting and entertaining. Opening: a man with no memory wakes in an unfamiliar place run by a computer. Oh, and he has 2 corpses for company.

Our Lady of the Lost and Found – Diane Schoemperlen The Virgin Mary visits a female writer and asks if she can rest up for her next journey in the writer's guest room. We've given this book to several people as a gift. A beautiful work of fiction. (FYI: I had to say “work of fiction.” Read the book and find out why.)

The Man Who Was Thursday – G.K. Chesterton I didn't know they had acid back in Chesterton's day! What's it about? From an argument about poetry to infiltrating a secret society to mad chases in all kinds of vehicles and on all manner of animals. And then it gets bizarre.

The Power of Silence – Robert Cardinal Sarah. If you feel that life today is besieged by noise and hubris this is for you.

A Gentleman in Moscow – Amor Towles Beautiful novel of life in the early Soviet Union.

Eve in Hollywood - Amor Towles, this is part of a book of short stories, don't bother to read the first 6 shorts. They have the uplifting themes of Henry James. Stick to Eve.

An Inconvenient Minority – Kenny Zu True examples of why the US values academic achievement so little. FYI: I have several dogs in this fight. So, it's personal for me.

A Time to Die – Nicolos Diat True stories from monks on their death beds.

Empire of Pain – Patrick Keefe True story of the Sackler family and the opioid crisis. When I started developing an environmental risk course overdoses were about #40 in cause of death. In updating I noticed that they had moved up to about #10.

The Bright Ages – Matthew Gabriele and David Perry A new history of the Middle Ages starting from the fall of Rome. You will learn that some common historical narratives are fiction.

The Tyranny of Big Tech – Josh Hawley Like the Sacklers above it's not about doing good but power and money.

How to teach relativity to your dog – Chad Orzel And you might learn too!

Woke Racism – John McWhorter I've seen it at my school. Sad but true.

The Last Duel – Eric Jager True story of the last "Trial by Combat" in France

Maid – Stephanie Land True story of poverty in America.

The Twelve Lives of Alfred Hitchcock – Edward White Hitchcock as you've never seen him.

Surely, You're Joking Mr. Feynman – Richard Feynman Auto bio of the Nobel prize winner

The Sociopath Next Door – Martha Stout Written by a psychologist. Bet you've met some people like this.

On Killing – Lt. Col. Dave Grossman Real data collection on a side of war most don't know even exists.

Fiery but mostly peaceful – Julio Rosas How main stream media blatantly lied about the Floyd riots and the destruction they caused.

Generation Kill – Evan Wright With the 1st Marine Recon in Iraq II

Blitzed – Norman Ohler Meth in Hitler's Germany

The Stranger in the Life Boat – Mitch Albom What if you were adrift in a life boat and you prayed to God for rescue? And suppose someone claiming to be God shows up?

The History of the World in 6 Glasses – Tom Standage 6 drinks that changed the world.

Lessons in Chemistry – Bonnie Garmus Romance in the lab.

Remarkably Bright Creatures – Shelby Van Pelt Friendship between a janitor at an aquarium and an octopus.

King Solomon's Mines – H. Rider Haggard Wild adventure.

The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt – Edmund Morris Follows Roosevelt’s life from birth to assuming the presidency. Fascinating and compelling.

The Spy Who Knew Too Much – Howard Blum True story of espionage and betrayal.

The Best Short Stories of Edith Wharton – Edith Wharton Wonderful writing, totally depressing stories.

Gathering Moss - Robin Wall Kimmerer Beautifully written. You may never look at moss the same way.

Live your truth and other lies - Alisa Childers Biblically based book on why the Oprah on steroids movement is killing us.

The General and the genius - James Kunetke - The BOMB as in THE BOMB

Code Talker - Chester Nezz and Judith Avila True story about the unbreakable codes of WWII

The Stranger in the Woods - Michael Finkel True story of a man who walked away from human interaction and spent 27 years in the Maine Woods. In those years he talked to one person. He said "Hi!"

The Shallows - Nicholous Carr You probably noticed. The Internet is making you stupid. Here's the documentation.

We Have No Idea - Jorge Cham and Danial Whiteson. Two Physicists discuss what we don't know. It's a lot.

Crucible of Hell - Saul Darid Bloodiest battle of the Pacific

The Art Thief - Michael Finkel True story of a couple who stole \$1 - 2 Billion of European art and then . . . sat on it.

When McKinsey Comes to Town - Walt Bogdanich and Michael Forsythe Want to be depressed? Just think that there are esteemed companies out there like McKinsey screwing everyone they can find with no guilt about the lives they've ruined.

The Toxic War on Masculinity - Nancy Pearcey Teaching biology I have come to realize there is NO other species on the planet that works so hard to destroy itself in the name of ideology.

West with Giraffes - Lynda Rutledge The true story of a transfer of Giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Well, modified a bit.

The Gift of Peace – Joseph Cardinal Bernardin A summary of the last three years of Bernardin’s life. Short but very powerful.

The man who knew – Edgar Wallace Twists, turns, plots leading to dead ends and a finish I never expected.

Napoleon – David Bell A concise bio of a man who changed history. He wasn't really a nice guy.

The Golden Pool – R. Austin Freeman An amazing adventure with piracy, betrayal, murder, ship wreck and more.

The Utmost Farthing – R. Austin Freeman A 20 year search by a man to revenge his wife's murder.

Waves in an Impossible Ocean – Matt Strassler The Higgs Boson and its field. Okay I said it. Now you read it and explain it to me.

The Theory of almost everything – Robert Oerter The Minimal Standard. What it does. Not why it works.

The Canon in Residence – Victor Whitechurch Gossip and suspicion in an English Parish

Left for Dead – Pete Nelson What really happened to the USS Indianapolis. And who was really responsible. And vindication of the innocent.

Anxious Generation – Jonathan Haidt Get the cell phones away from the kids! Now!

Oath and Honor – Liz Cheney I'd vote for her. Factual discussion of the January 7th storming of the capital.

Hillbilly Elegy – J. D. Vance My home town was (is) a great deal like this. As are many small rural towns in Illinois. Vance is taking a lot of flak now because he gored some democratic sacred cows. But I knew/know people like this.

Bad Therapy – Abigail Shrier Ever wonder why, with an explosion of mental health professionals and services in the US, suicides, depression and anxiety are at an all-time high?

Entangled Life – Merlin Sheldrake Amazing book on how the world is linked via fungi.