

411

"O" Magazine

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The Return of the Prodigal Son was given to me by a friend in 1994 after I had experienced some tragic and painful losses -- my father, my mother-in-law, and our dear friend Vince Foster all died. I was reading a lot of Scripture and theology and other books of inspiration at the time. This book struck a very responsive chord, because the story is such a moving and constructive parable about what matters in life.

Reverend Henri Nouwen, a Jesuit priest, analyzes the story of the prodigal son as told by Jesus in the New Testament. Nouwen offers the perspectives of the father and both his sons--the one who returns home after squandering his fortune and the dutiful older son who never left.

One sentence hit me like a lightning bolt: "The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy."

I had never thought of gratitude as a habit or discipline before, and I discovered that it was immensely helpful to do so. When I found myself in a difficult situation, I began to make a mental list of all that I was grateful for--being alive and healthy for another

day, loving and being loved by family and friends, experiencing the awesome privilege of working on behalf of my country and its citizens. By consciously reminding myself of my blessings, I could move from pessimism to optimism, from grief to hopefulness.

Nouwen's book contains universal, timeless lessons for people of all religions, backgrounds and cultures. It really is about how our heavenly Father, God, loves us despite our shortcomings and failings. For me it was a call to the discipline of gratitude. . .and also to forgiveness. And I certainly have had plenty of occasions to use both. I would encourage everyone to read it, particularly if they are going through a difficult time in their lives.

May 18, 2000

To: Lissa Muscatine
From: Dawn Raffel
Re: Bookshelf

Here is bookshelf, as edited. We are aware that the book covers need to be moved to match text! For the photo caption, we'd like to use a quote from the original interview: "When I find myself with a free hour during the day, I try to ~~sneak in~~ some reading." In our contributor bios, we also plan to use the quote "I can think of countless books that have had an impact on the way I view the world."

I need to hear back from you asap.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

SPND TIME

Bookshelf

The first lady reveals some of her favorites in her collection at home

Little Women

BY LOUISA MAY ALCOTT



Like many women of my generation who read this novel growing up, I really felt like I lived in Jo's family. This book was one of the first literary explorations of how women balance

the demands of their daily lives, from raising families to pursuing outside goals. The book was written more than a century ago, but its message resonates today.

The Poisonwood Bible

BY BARBARA KINGSOLVER

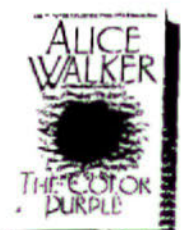


This is the story of an American missionary who moves his family to the Congo at the end of Belgian rule. It's one of the most powerful books I've read about the evil

consequences of patriarchal oppression, be it personal, cultural or political. Movingly told through the voices of four sisters and their mother. It reminded me that every woman faces unique challenges and choices—and that all too often women find themselves trapped by their circumstances.

The Color Purple

BY ALICE WALKER



Alice Walker tackles some of American society's most vexing issues—race, gender and violence—through a memorable protagonist named Celie. The story of her growing up as a victim of abuse and her ongoing



ARE WHO WE REALLY
ARE OUR RISK TO
EXPRESS BIGGEST FEAR
I TAKING THE RISK WE
EVERY 18 WORDS

journey of self-discovery is a brutally honest assessment of human nature at its best and worst.

The Clan of The Cave Bear

BY JEAN M. AUEL



I've been interested for a long time in archeology and anthropology, and this novel about life in prehistoric times is a rich blend of imagination and information about everything from plants that were used for medicine to the rituals and taboos of Neanderthal man. It's also about Ayla, a girl who is orphaned when her parents are killed in an earthquake. Maybe because I'm a mother, I was very moved by the story of her survival and growing

Fixes bad break.

up. 2

Wild Swans

BY JUNG CHANG



Chang traces the lives of three generations of women born in China during the 20th century. Set against the historical backdrop of imperialist China, the rise of Communism and, finally, Mao's cultural revolution, *Wild Swans* is an inspiring tale of women who survived every kind of hardship, deprivation and political upheaval with their humanity intact.

West With The Night

BY BERYL MARKHAM



Talk about inspiring! I can't get over the amount of daring, courage, determination and self-confidence it took to accomplish what Beryl Markham did in 1936 when she became the first person to fly solo east to west across the Atlantic Ocean. This is a beautifully written life story of one of the greatest women adventurers of all time, from her growing up in Sub-Saharan Africa to her exploits as a pilot.



This novel opened my eyes, not only to the distinct and special traditions of Chinese-American culture, but to the ways in which immigrant women of different generations adapted and adjusted to life in this country.

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HRC ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR "O" MAGAZINE BOOKSHELF
DRAFT #2

Have books played an important role in your life?

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When do you find time to read?

Late at night and when I'm traveling. Every once in awhile I'll find myself with a free hour during the day and I try to sneak in some time reading.

When and how did you first hear about *The Return of the Prodigal Son*?

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What is your favorite passage? Has it changed your way of thinking? In what ways? Etc.

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Here's what I said:

"One of the people I encountered, through his writings and tapes, was the Reverend Henri Nouen, a Jesuit priest and the author of meditations on his and our world's spiritual journey. His book The Return of the Prodigal Son analyzes that New Testament parable from the perspectives of the father and both his sons – the one who returns home after squandering his fortune and the dutiful older son who never left. One sentence hit me over the head like – well, like a shovel: "The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy."

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O, The Oprah Magazine
New York Editorial Office
1700 Broadway
38th floor
New York, NY 10019

FAX TO: Lissa Muscatine

FAX #: 202-456-7805

PHONE #: _____

FROM: Jennifer Fields - Dawn Paffel

PHONE #: 212-903-5196

FAX #: _____

OF PGS. (including cover): 4

Message: _____

May 17

To: Lissa Muscatine
From: Dawn Raffel, *O Magazine*
Re: **URGENT**

As discussed, we've recast the opening Q&A into a narrative introduction. To do this, we needed to compress a bit--but we've made every effort to stay completely true to Hillary Clinton's message. We are excited and honored to have this book selection in our pages!

It is urgent that I get a response from you today.

Many thanks, as ever, for your help with this project.

All best,



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1) THE POISONWOOD BIBLE, Barbara Kingsolver

This story of an American missionary who moves his family to the Congo at the end of Belgian rule is one of the most powerful books I've ever read about the evil consequences of patriarchal oppression, be it personal, cultural or political. Because the story is told so movingly through the voices of four sisters and their mother, it reminded me that every woman faces unique challenges and choices in her life – and that all too often women find themselves trapped by their circumstances.

2) LITTLE WOMEN, Louisa May Alcott

Like many women of my generation who read this novel growing up, I really felt like I lived in Jo's family. This book was one of the original explorations of how women balance the many demands of their daily lives, from raising families to pursuing outside goals. Despite having been written more than a century ago, its message still resonates today.

3) THE COLOR PURPLE, Alice Walker

Alice Walker tackles some of American society's most vexing issues – race, gender and violence – through a memorable protagonist named Celie. The story of her growing up as a victim of abuse and her ongoing journey of self-discovery is a brutally honest assessment of human nature at its best and worst.

4) WILD SWANS, Jung Chang

This autobiography traces the lives of three generations of women born in China during the 20th century. Set against the historical backdrop of imperialist China, the rise of Communism and finally Mao's Cultural Revolution, it is an inspiring tale of women who survived every kind of hardship, deprivation and political upheaval with their humanity intact.

5) THE JOY LUCK CLUB, Amy Tan

This book offers moving insights about the Asian-American immigrant experience. It really opened my eyes, not only to the distinct and special traditions of Chinese American culture, but to the ways in which immigrant women of different generations adapted and adjusted to life in this country.

6) WEST WITH THE NIGHT, Beryl Markham

Talk about inspiring! I can't get over the amount of daring, courage, determination and self-confidence it took to accomplish what Beryl Markham did in 1936 when she became the first person to fly solo from East to West across the Atlantic. This is a beautifully written life story of one of the greatest women adventurers of all time, from her growing up in sub-Saharan Africa to her exploits as a pilot.

7) THE CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR, Jean Auel

I've been interested for a long time in archeology and anthropology and this novel about life in prehistoric times is a rich blend of imagination and information about everything from plants that were used for medicine to the rituals and taboos of Neanderthal man.

It is also about Ayla, a little girl who becomes orphaned when the rest of her family is killed in an earthquake. Maybe because I'm a mother I was very moved by the story of her survival and growing up.

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TO: HRC
FROM: Lissa 
RE: "O" magazine books
DATE: May 4, 2000

Enclosed you'll find the following:

- 1) A copy of what you wrote in ITAV about *The Return of the Prodigal Son*.
- 2) A sample page of the blurbs Oprah wrote for each book she selected last month.
You'll see that they're very short.
- 3) A new draft of the Q & A about *Return of the Prodigal Son*.
- 4) A new draft of the blurbs about each of your books.

I promised the editor of the magazine that we'd get her final copy sometime ~~tomorrow~~ afternoon. I hope that's possible. Thanks!

Friday

the Bible to

HRC ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR "O" MAGAZINE BOOKSHELF
DRAFT – many need to make some edits

1. Have books played an important role in your life?

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I read recently

found to be equally provocative w/ these w/ us I've seen

3. When do you find time to read?

Late at night and when I'm traveling. Every once in awhile I'll find myself with a free hour during the day and I try to sneak in some time reading.

Here I also faced a diff. chall. hick did have been my first

4. When and how did you first hear about *The Return of the Prodigal Son*?

It was given to me by a friend in 1994 after I had experienced some very tragic and painful losses – my father, my mother-in-law, and our dear friend Vince Foster all died. I was reading a lot of Scripture and theology and other books of inspiration at the time. But this book really struck a very responsive chord because the story is such a moving and constructive parable about what matters in life.

layer - w/ an exception I picked books that we read recently

5-8. What is your favorite passage? Has it changed your way of thinking? In what ways? Etc.

The parable of the prodigal son is told by Jesus in the New Testament to make the point that a good parent loves his or her children unconditionally and is always there for a child, even one who returns after going astray. Reverend Nouen analyzes the parable from the perspective of a father and his two sons – one who runs off and squanders his fortune while the other dutifully stays home.

It made me think of something my father used to always tell me: "I may not always like what you do, but I'll always love you." For me as a child that was a rock of security.

My favorite passage in the book is about the discipline of gratitude. It hit me like a lightning bolt: that I had much more to be grateful for every day than I realized. I became more aware of how I could consciously discipline myself to be grateful for what I have and enjoy every day.

Before reading the book I had never thought about gratitude as a habit, but I began to make mental lists of everything I had to be grateful for and I found that I could move myself from feeling bad to good, sad to happy, pessimistic to optimistic by consciously reminding myself of my many blessings.

The message of this book is one that all of us need, not only as children but as adults. It really is about how our heavenly Father, God, loves us despite our shortcomings and failings. For me it was a call to the discipline of gratitude – and also to forgiveness. And I certainly have had plenty of occasions to use both during my life.

9. With whom have you shared this book?

Immediately after reading it I began giving it to people at a rapid rate. In fact, I also started corresponding with Rev. Nouen and we were in the process of trying to find a time to meet when he unexpectedly died.

10. How did they react?

The book always got a lot of positive feed back. I was happy to share it with a wider audience.

11. Who should read this book?

It contains universal, timeless lessons for men, women, children and people of all religions, backgrounds and cultures. So I would encourage everyone to read it, particularly if they are going through a difficult time in their lives.

Talk about inspiring! I can't get over the amount of daring, courage, determination and self-confidence it took to accomplish what Beryl Markham did in 1936 when she became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from East to West. This is a beautifully written life story of one of the greatest women adventurers of all time, from her growing up in sub-Saharan Africa to her exploits as a pilot.

8) THE CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR, Jean Auel

I've been interested for a long time in ~~anthropology~~ ^{archaeology} and this novel about life in prehistoric times is rich with ~~information and insights~~ about everything from plants that were used for medicine to the rituals and taboos of Neanderthal man.

It is also about Ayla, a little girl who becomes orphaned when the rest of her family is killed in an earthquake. Maybe because I'm a mother, I was very moved by the story of her survival and growing up.

blend of
imagination
&
info'n

double

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS OFFICE

PHONE: (202) 456-2960

FAX: (202) 456-7805

TO: DAWN RAFFEL

FAX: 212-977-1947 PHONE: 212-903-5196

DATE: 5/4/00 TIME: 2:10 pm

PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 3

FROM: LISSA MUSCATINE

COMMENTS:

Dawn -- Here's the Q + A, which may need
some minor edits, but overall she's happy with it.
We'll have blurbs for the books by tomorrow
afternoon. She wants to work on them tomorrow
tonight & tomorrow -- mx for your perusal.

HRC BOOKLIST FOR "O" MAGAZINE
DRAFT

1) THE POISONWOOD BIBLE, Barbara Kingsolver

This is one of the most powerful books I've ever read about the evil consequences of patriarchal oppression, be it personal, cultural or political. Because the story is told so movingly through the voices of four sisters and their mother, it reminded me that every woman faces unique challenges and choices in her life – and that all too often women find themselves trapped by their circumstances.

*set in Congo in the
heart of
Belgian
rule,*

2) LITTLE WOMEN, Louisa May Alcott

Like many women of my generation who read this novel growing up, I really felt like I lived in Jo's family. This book was one of the original explorations of how women balance the many demands of their daily lives, from raising families to pursuing outside goals. Despite having been written more than a century ago, its message still resonates today.

3) THE COLOR PURPLE, Alice Walker

Alice Walker tackles some of American society's most vexing issues – race, gender and violence. I loved how the book connected these big topics through the character of Celie. It's an unusually honest book about the human condition.

4) WILD SWANS, Jung Chang

Set in China during the 20th c. ... explores the
I loved this book because it's really about women who survived every kind of hardship, deprivation and political upheaval with their humanity intact.

5) THE JOY LUCK CLUB, Amy Tan

a moving insight
This book really was my first literary exposure to the Asian-American immigrant experience. I thought it was a great story about how women of different generations found different ways of adapting and adjusting to American culture.

6) OUT OF AFRICA, Isak Dinesen

collection of stories
Besides being exotic and romantic, this story really stuck with me because Isak Dinesen turned her own exciting and often terrifying challenges into vivid depictions of what a determined, brave and at times headstrong woman was capable of doing.

7) WEST WITH THE NIGHT, Beryl Markham

Talk about inspiring! I can't get over the amount of daring, courage, determination and self-confidence it took to accomplish what Beryl Markham did in 1936 when she became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from East to West. This is a beautifully written life story of one of the greatest women adventurers of all time.

8) THE CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR, Jean Auel

I've been interested for a long time in anthropology, and this novel provides an incredible window on human life and human relationships tens of thousands of years ago. It is also in many ways a story about surviving and growing up that I found both absorbing and touching.

↑ a girl

- pre-hisby -

ungrateful abt what

<Description> -

The parable of prodigal son
told by Jesus - NT

to make the pt abt how a
father loves his children
uncondit & is always there
who comes back after being gone
astray or disgraced.

My father ^{used} to always tell me:
- I may not always like
what you do but I'll always love
you

Such - rock of security

It says all of us held not only
as child but as adults

Tally abt how God loves us
despite our shortcomings & failings

Call to ^{the} description of gratitude
but also forgiveness, ~~which~~

HRC ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR "O" MAGAZINE BOOKSHELF

1) Have books played an important role in your life?

I've always loved reading from the time I was a child. I can think of countless books – from children's classics to the great mysteries of Dorothy Sayers and Agatha Christie to Shakespeare's plays – that have had an impact on the way I view the world.

2) Was it hard to select a few favorites?

It was an impossible assignment! There's simply no way to take a lifetime of reading great books and single out a handful as the most influential in my life. So what I've done is to pick one book that had a profound effect on me and which I believe will be equally provocative to others. For the rest of the list I decided to focus on books by women authors. I chose ^{works} ~~ones~~ that are not only beautifully written, but which convey very powerfully the breadth and complexity of women's lives and the universality of their experiences.

3) When do you find time to read?

Late at night and when I'm traveling. Every once in awhile I'll find myself with a free hour during the day and I try to sneak in some time reading.

4) When and how did you first hear about *The Return of the Prodigal Son*?

It was given to me by a friend in 1994 after I had experienced some very tragic and painful losses – my father, my mother-in-law, and our dear friend Vince Foster all died. I was reading a lot of Scripture and theology and other books of inspiration at the time. But this book really struck a very responsive chord because the story is such a moving and constructive parable about what matters in life.

5-8) Questions answered together....

what's yr. favorite passage –

The section about the discipline of gratitude just hit me like a lightning bolt: that I had much more to be grateful for every day than I realized. I ~~sort of~~ became a ^{more aware} ~~disciple of the idea that we can consciously discipline ourselves to be grateful for what we do have.~~ ^{able how I did}

One of the parables in Scriptures – that Jesus tells – is about the two sons who take very different paths in life. The parable in the book tells us a lot about unconditional love, unbreakable bonds, the meaning of forgiveness and

*Conscious
discipline
myself to
be grateful
for what I
have + enjoy
every day. →*

Diane Blair

~~Miss Blain~~
all women
who write
about women.

1) Poisonwood Bible

2) Little Women Louisa May Alcott

Every woman I know feels like they lived
w/ that family.

3) Wild Swans -

A story of women who survived every kind of
hardship, deprivation + political upheaval w/
their ^{humanity} ~~values~~ ~~principles~~ intact.

4) Dorothy Sayers?

5) The Color Purple

An American classic -

6) I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

7) Out of Africa - A brave + headstrong woman Isak Dineen
tells vivid + compelling stories her personal struggles
w/ marriage falls apart - faith - love w/ country + determine to
be survive there.

8) West With The Night Beryl Markham

First woman who flew around Africa

9) The Clan of the Cave Bear (?) Aileen?
+ whole series that followed.

story about
her b
find the book

Lost in Translation Nilde Mones

- A woman who goes ~ a dig to China
to find herself.

The Diary of Nat Suman William Styron

Butterflies the free

Julia Alvarez

True story abt 3 sisters in Dom Rep who
resist Duvalier

Burghei's Daughter

Nadine Gordimer

The Handmaid's Tale Margaret Atwood

A Room of One's Own

Va. Woolf

1-8 take away #2

~~Notes~~

1) Poisonwood -

Powerful story abt women

- patriarchal domination - has hideous consequences
- draws // - colonial domination
- to open ppl's eyes to the evil consequences of -
~~colonial~~ oppression
personal, political + cultural -
- 4 different young women + their mothers -

2) Out of Africa

Setting - time when there were no women explorers,
plantation owners - clearly not skills she
had acquired -

Turn her own excitement + other things
challenges into vivid depiction of what a
determined woman is capable of doing.

3) West With the Night >

4) Call of the Cave Bear >

universal, kinder

Lessons for Dec. 11th & 12th

- * People of all relig. faiths + cultures

(3)

single big year

read: 1000

2 trade wars

to be grateful

twy d

for what I have

3) Late at night & when I'm travelling -
Break in a hour.

4) Given to me in 94 after tragic + painful go of losses - father, no - u - law, Vince - said it had really helped her. I was reading a lot of scripture, Psalms + bks of insp. This one struck a very responsive chord. Story is such a moving + instructive parable about what matters in life. It just hit me like

I realized I have so much more to be grateful
for everyday — And why can't be disciplined
Consciously became a disciple of the discipline I
grati. gotten through some v. diff times.

from copies and at a rapid rate

She been conv. abt when we could meet when he unexpectedly died.

Was on his way to St. Peter which -
heart attack - Netherland

Given it to ppl who have faced diff lines in their
lives - gotten really positive feedback. Glad to
bring it to a wider audience

one of parables in Scriptures - Jesus ^{had} tell - two sons

guy on leave home + squandered time - wine, women,

father is worried he is long home + have a fast -
home way - sees his son at the end of road - sibli who ^{older son is} ^{resentful}
had squandered -

parable tells us a lot abt uncond'l love, unbreakable

Bonds mat shell

how you can live a superb control life but not have forgiveness i.e. Kent

Now is the time to
live in
peace and
love

understand. 6 The father who understand the older son / younger son
also happy that
can come back

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2000

- -

12:40 pm- **TAPING OF VOICEOVER FOR ROSIE O'DONNELL**
12:55 pm OEOB Radio Studio - Room 415

1:00 pm- **REENLISTING CEREMONY FOR MIKE INGRAM**
1:10 pm Map Room
WH PHOTO

1:15 pm- **DROP-BY**
1:20 pm Diplomatic Reception Room
WH PHOTO

1:30 pm- **PHONE/DOWN TIME**
6:00 pm

6:05 pm **DEPART** The White House
EN ROUTE The Phoenix Park Hotel
[Drive time: 10 minutes]

6:15 pm **ARRIVE** The Phoenix Park Hotel

GREETERS:
Senator Tom Daschle
Senator Harry Reid

6:20 pm- **HILLARY 2000 RECEPTION**
7:30 pm Georgine Room
The Phoenix Park Hotel
520 North Capitol Street
Washington, DC
Hold: General Manager's Office
Phone: 202/638-6900 737-9550
Fax: 202/661-4592
CLOSED PRESS

FORMAT:
-HRC enters Georgine Room and stands for a photo receiving line.

-Senator Harry Reid makes welcoming remarks and introduces Senator Tom Daschle.

-Senator Tom Daschle makes brief remarks and introduces HRC.

-HRC makes brief remarks and opens Q&A.

-Upon conclusion of Q&A, HRC departs.

Return of Prodigal Son

Long Walk to Freedom

dignity & grace are the best weapons ~~in the struggle~~ ~~against oppression~~

Joy Luck Club

Poisonwood Bible

Colour Purple

Divine Secrets

Night / Day

Bros K (?)

Shil is book club
& the Family 6 book

SCHEDULE FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2000

*Helen Thomas/
did S.O. live i
Chapq. live?*

- -

FINAL

WASHINGTON, DC

SCHEDULER:	MELODIE GREENE
	202/456-7847 PHONE
	202/395-1501 CELL
	202/456-5340 FAX
	202/667-5547 HOME
	WHCA PAGER #4938

PREV RON The White House

9:30 am- **BRIEFING**
9:45 am Map Room

9:50 am- **MEET AND GREET**
10:15 am Blue Room
CLOSED PRESS/WH PHOTO

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 30 guests

10:15 am- **WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON TEENAGERS**
12:30 pm East Room
OPEN PRESS

FORMAT:

-POTUS and HRC are announced into the East Room accompanied by Ben Casey and families.

-POTUS and HRC proceed to stage.

-HRC makes remarks and introduces POTUS.

-POTUS makes remarks and introduces Ben Casey.

-Ben Casey makes brief remarks.

Approx 10:45am -POTUS thanks Ben Casey and departs East Room.

-HRC proceeds to table on stage to begin Panel I.

-Panel I.

Approx 11:05am -Panel II.

-Panel II concludes and HRC departs.

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 200 guests

West With The Night

Eg. girl Taken to E. Africa -

Childhood

witnessing her father's patience transf. land
against his primitive backward
race ^{values} values

carried mail, passengers,
remote corners of India -

Sept 36 first person to fly solo across Atlantic
from E. to West

writes beautiful
inspiring -

day courage, determined, self confidence +
ambition to chart a new frontier

TO: HRC
FROM: Lissa
RE: "O" magazine
Teen conference update
DATE: May 1, 2000

1) Here's the list of questions from Oprah's people.

Forgive me for doing my job, but I have to play cynic for a moment just so we think through the possible commentary about your selection of books.

I don't think you need Shakespeare, but if you want to pick one I think it ought to be King Lear. Macbeth and Hamlet leave too much room for political psychobabble. With Lear we can say something about it being the one of the greatest literary explorations on the nature of loyalty, or something like that.

My concern about Brothers K is that, while clearly one of the greatest works of all time, it is arguably about religious skepticism and patricide.

(If you want to be really safe, you could go with Great Expectations or throw in another woman with Pride and Prejudice. But I'd only do that if either one (or something comparable) had a big impact on you).

I assume you're trying to avoid endorsements of living fiction writers (although Harper Lee is still alive), but if not, what about Amy Tan or someone like that?

I'm not encouraging you to change any of these. I'm just trying to make it as politically benign as possible. The good thing is that your original list is indisputably great literature, so it's going to be defensible no matter what anyone says.

Also, remember that we're going to do a riff for them on how this was an impossible exercise because you've been a reader your whole life and have read many great books....

2) C-SPAN is covering the morning sessions live tomorrow. We have surrogates on CBS Early Morning, CNN's early show and probably Good Morning America. ABC World News Tonight is probably going to do a story on the brain research. We may want to pull you aside after the morning session to answer a few questions from Eileen O'Connor of CNN. The only danger is that she'll ask a Rudy question, to which you'd have to repeat what you said last week (about wishing him a speedy recovery) and reiterate that this conference isn't the occasion to talk about New York politics.

Stones from Ibarra

Wild Swans

loved so many books
- For this need to pick books meaningful to me and
also readily available + of interest -

Bros & K ^{most} complex, challenging and
challenging book that challenges assumptions abt people's relationships
+ beliefs reaffirms one's own commitment to family + faith.

Jay Luck Club

Partic. interested in recent yrs to read women authors
write about women's lives. / generations of women + the
opened up immigrant story adjustment + adaptation
to S.O. like me. especially immigrant family

Poisonwood Bible

Story told through perspective of mother + 4 daughters whose
husband uproots them + takes them to Congo at end of Belgian rule -
Each ch. through voice of different
determination / father can't understand why his brand
of utopianism isn't working -

Color Purple

pressures + choices + challenges
for girls + women in both
intersection of personality +
culture -

Eli Wiesel - Night / Day

Search for Meaning

limits of villagers vs.
new restrictive, patriarchal
new the father tries
to impose on daughter
+ his wife.
Women feel trapped.

Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood

messy +
deliv. messages to ppl who
might not otherwise get the message
alcoholism, sexuality, mental illness,
unique ways in which different women experience
their ~~own~~ ^{own} ~~life~~ ^{life} as their closest
relationships + friendships

TO: HRC
FROM: Lissa
RE: "O" Magazine book list
DATE: May 3, 2000

212
977 1947

Diane and I spoke at length and have come up with the following possibilities. If you can pick 5-7 of them we'll work on blurbs for each one. It would be great if you could let me know today because Oprah's people are breathing down my neck about it. Deadline fast approaching. Thanks.

- 1) Return of the Prodigal Son
- 2) ~~Long Walk to Freedom~~
- 3) The Poisonwood Bible
- 4) Little Women (I suggested this to you yesterday; Diane is very high on including it)
- 5) The Color Purple
- 6) Wild Swans
- 7) (and/or) The Joy Luck Club
- 8) Out of Africa
- 9) West With the Night (By Beryl Markham)
- 10) The Clan of the Cave Bear (do you know the author?)
- 11) Lost in Translation (Nicole Mones)
- 12) Any book by Dorothy Sayers
- 13) Butterflies Are Free (Julia Alvarez)
- 14) A Burgher's Daughter (Nadine Gordimer - or any other book by her)
- 15) The Handmaid's Tale (Atwood)
- 16) Night Day (Wiesel)

Prodigal Son
catch-all
Agnie Christie to Dorothy Sayers -
homework book club

TO: HRC
FROM: Lissa
RE: "O" Magazine book list
DATE: May 3, 2000

Diane and I spoke at length and have come up with the following possibilities. If you can pick 5-7 of them we'll work on blurbs for each one. It would be great if you could let me know today because Oprah's people are breathing down my neck about it. Deadline fast approaching. Thanks.

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- 15) The Handmaid's Tale (Atwood)
- 16) Night Day (Wiesel)

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Out of Africa (Modern Library Series)

by [Isak Dinesen](#)



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- [Isak Dinesen : The Life of a Storyteller; Judith Thurman](#)
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Editorial Reviews

From [500 Great Books by Women](#): review by Lynne Auld

From 1914 to 1931, Danish aristocrat Baroness Karen Blixen owned and operated a coffee plantation in Kenya. After the plantation failed, she returned to Europe and began to write under the pen name Isak Dinesen. **Out of Africa** reads like a collection of stories in which she adheres to no strict chronology,

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reads like a collection of stories in which she adheres to no strict chronology, gives no explanation of the facts of her life, and apologizes for nothing. First published in 1937, **Out of Africa** is not free of the colonial or racist attitudes of its time; yet, within that context, Isak Dinesen is an enlightened observer and participant as she describes the experience of British East Africa before World War II. She portrays in rich detail the vast land around her, alive with strange and wonderful human populations; the thrilling terror of a nocturnal lion hunt; a shooting accident among the Africans on her farm and its repercussions; raising and freeing an orphaned antelope fawn; getting to know the Africans and the colonial adventurers who found their way into her life. "If I know a song of Africa," she writes, "of the Giraffe, and the African new moon lying on her back, of the ploughs in the fields, and the sweaty faces of the coffee-pickers, does Africa know a song of me?" **Out of Africa** is that song. -- *For great reviews of books for girls, check out [Let's Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14](#).*

Kliatt, January 1992

"This audiobook is stirring and remarkable." --*This text refers to the [audio cassette edition](#) of this title*

Book Description

In the years when Africa remained for Europeans a romantic and formidable continent accessible only through accounts from colonists, Isak Dinesen (the Danish countess Karen Blixen) had the great good fortune to run a coffee plantation in Kenya. Also an Oscar-winning motion picture, this audiobook presents the portrait of a strong, determined, sensitive woman on whom a rich, dramatic landscape and way of life made deep impressions. Dinesen's love for Africa and the Africans who worked on her land... [read more](#)

Synopsis

Dinesen's love for Africa and the Africans who worked on her land is brought to life in this audio version of her bestselling book. 2 cassettes. --*This text refers to the [audio cassette edition](#) of this title*

About the Author

Julie Harris, dubbed "first lady of the theater" by reviewer Rex Reed, has won a record-setting five Tony awards, plus two Emmys and a Grammy. She was nominated for the 1991 Best Actress Tony award for her role in *Lucifer's Child*. --*This text refers to the [audio cassette edition](#) of this title*

All Customer Reviews

Avg. Customer Review: ★★★★★

Number of Reviews: 7

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5 of 5 people found the following review helpful:



FORGET THE MOVIE

March 7, 2000

Reviewer: **Gabrielle deLourdes-Renoir** (see more about me)
from Switzerland

TOP 50
Reviewer

Forget the movie and read the book instead. Isak Dinesen's love for Africa and her adopted homeland shines through every page as she helps us to vicariously experience life on a Kenyan farm. The book is loosely plotted and Dinesen is not shy about expressing her personal views, so expect some opinionated writing from this lady. She doesn't romanticize Africa, as many writers do. She tells it like it is, which is great, as far as I'm concerned. If you're looking for King Solomon's Mines, forget it, but if you have any interest in Africa, past or present, you're sure to like this book.

Was this review helpful to you? ☒ YES ☐ NO

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful:



Good book that takes you to a different time & place

December 28, 1999

Reviewer: **Richard Miller** (see more about me) from New York, NY

This book, (actually autobiographical) is a very enjoyable read that takes the reader to the time and place that it was written(early 20th century Europe colonized Africa). From this perspective, it also provides a great outlook from that time of what the future could hold for European/African and in fact human/earth relations. The only drawback is that at times, the author focuses too closely on some non-important characters and side stories and loses focus on the larger and more interesting picture of her existence in Africa and her interaction with the people there.

Was this review helpful to you? ☒ YES ☐ NO

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful:



Movie is a massacre--the book is brilliant!

July 14, 1999

Reviewer: joblot@hotmail.com

(Dear Previous Reviewer, There is no "delicious irony" in Karen Blixen's "need" to use a male [are you sure Isak is male?] pseudonym to be published--this nonfiction work is clearly narrated by a woman. Refer for examples to the Old Knudsen sections.) Karen Blixen is an open, likable, insightful narrator, and the stories of her 12 years running a farm outside Nairobi are each enthralling, tales of an Africa which now exists only in the past. She has used the perfect combination of facts and her own reflections on people & events of this life, and she is not self-centered in focus.

Was this review helpful to you? ☒ YES ☐ NO

1 of 18 people found the following review helpful:

☆☆☆☆ **In and "Out of Africa"**

March 15, 1999

Reviewer: CRIXEN@aol.com (see more about me) from New York

Out of my suitcase and into my hands, out of my hands and into my suitcase, out of my suitcase and into my hands--packing and unpacking the book I never see, its pages dark with with neglect, as, suitcase in hand--right hand, left hand, left hand, right hand--I travel to other places--this place, that place, that place, this place--reading other books--right page, left page, left page, right page--along trails of neglect marked out for longing native to my sense of proper tourist-etiquette. Then one day--long, long from now, far, far from here--responding to the rasp of a hasp, I look down and see my beard helplessly locked between the jaws of my suitcase. The beard is long and growing longer, deep and deeper into the suitcase's unknown (and therefore, perhaps, vast) interior. I unlock the suitcase--spreading its jaws apart (top jaw, bottom jaw, bottom jaw, top jaw)--reach in, rescue my bead and salvage the book, which latter, like the former, is covered with --slime? ooze? mud? No, shaving cream! Clutching the book with one hand (my right), removing my beard with the other (my left), I kick the suitcase (it moans--a sigh of regret? of longing?) and begin to read. The book's first words cut like a razor through hair proud to be cut: "I had a farm, in Africa, at the foot of the Ngong Hills." I stop traveling, I return home--long, long from now, far, far from here.

Was this review helpful to you? ☒ YES ☐ NO

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Wild Swans : Three Daughters of China

by Jung Chang



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Number of Reviews: 109

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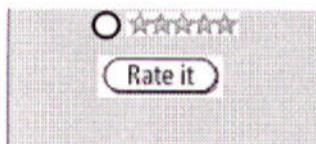
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Editorial Reviews



Amazon.com

In *Wild Swans* Jung Chang recounts the evocative, unsettling, and insistently gripping story of how three generations of women in her family fared in the political maelstrom of China during the 20th century. Chang's grandmother was a warlord's concubine. Her gently raised mother struggled with hardships in the early days of Mao's revolution and rose, like her husband, to a prominent position in the Communist Party before being denounced during the Cultural Revolution. Chang herself marched, worked, and breathed for Mao until doubt crept in over the excesses of his policies and purges. Born just a few decades apart, their lives overlap with the end of the warlords' regime and overthrow of the Japanese occupation, violent struggles between the Kuomintang and the Communists to carve up China, and, most poignant for the author, the vicious cycle of purges orchestrated by Chairman Mao that discredited and crushed millions of people, including her parents.

From AudioFile

The history of twentieth-century China is told through the lives of three women--Jung Chang, her mother, and her grandmother. Reader Anna Massey brings the perfect tone to the recording. Her British accent relates the tale simply, but compellingly. Massey's passion accentuates the text. Technically exceptional as well, this memoir is superior in all regards. The listener will learn much about recent Chinese history with pleasure. This is a must for most libraries. E.L.C. ©AudioFile, Portland,... [read more](#)

From 500 Great Books by Women: review by Holly Smith

Jung Chang's autobiography tells recent Chinese history from a personal perspective. Jung's grandmother was a concubine with bound feet who saw the father of her only child three times in ten years. Her child, Jung's mother, grew up to be a passionate, committed Communist, who married one of Mao's most ardent supporters. Jung's father always put the party before the family: he once sent his mother-in-law away after she had walked hundreds of miles to be with them because he felt feeding her... [read more](#)

From Kirkus Reviews , July 1, 1991

An exceptional tribute to three generations of courageous and articulate Chinese women: the grandmother, born in 1909 into a still feudal society; the mother, a Communist official and then "enemy of the people"; and the daughter, the author, raised during the reactionary Cultural Revolution, then sent abroad in 1978, when the story ends, to study in England, where she now, at age 39, serves as Director of Chinese Studies for External Services, Univ. of London. In recounting her grandmother's... [read more](#)

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful:



Gripping, intense expose of Chinese history

June 23, 1999

Reviewer: **A reader** from FLA, USA

I am not an avid reader. In fact I consider most books boring, and I shun novels altogether. I hate to read books whose stories and plots I could have myself devised. However, during a cruise last year I came across Wild Swans in the ship's library and started reading the first chapter, because I had nothing else to do. That was the beginning of an adventure! I have never been so captivated and enthralled by one person's account of her life experiences. After returning home from the cruise, I rushed off to the library to borrow a copy and continue the saga. I felt a part of the entire scenario and was soon swept away by accounts of life in Communist China and the machinations of Chairman Mao. Miss Chung did an excellent job in bringing her story to life. I didn't get a chance to finish the book but intend to do so as soon as I have some free time. I borrowed another copy for my friend who is planning a trip to China this summer, and I insisted that she read it, since her trip would not be complete without this information. I plan to buy a hard cover copy and keep it in my permanent library at home. Congratulations Ms. Jung you have converted a book loather into an avid book reader (for this work). I am looking forward to more titles in your name again in the future.

Was this review helpful to you? ☒ YES ☐ NO

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful:



Truly touched and inspired

January 2, 2000

Reviewer: **Ryan Brenner** (see more about me) from Austin, Texas USA

When I sat down with Wild Swans, I had no expectations but to be informed and entertained by what I hoped would be a good book. I read to gain a personal understanding of the world in which we live through accounts and examples given by others of things I would never be able to experience first-hand. Never have I read a book that drew me in so powerfully and personally as Ms. Chang's Wild Swans. Wild Swans is epic in it's historical backdrop moving untirelessly through the last century of China, roughly between the years 1911 and 1976, but this is no textbook. You will never feel as though you just entered a lecture hall and are sitting through a journalistic or pedantic analysis of these turbulent times. This is the story of the author Jung Chang, her mother, and her grandmother. It is through their lives that history unfolds and is exposed. From the end of Imperial China, through Japanese occupation, the Nationalist movement, the Civil War between the Kuomintang and the Communists, Communist takeover, Mao's Great Leap Forward starving tens of millions to death, the Cultural Revolution turning a national identity upon it's head and breaking it's collective spirit in the process, to Mao Zedong's death, you will be amazed at what you learn in this book about the capacity of the heart to perservere and triumph. I couldn't help but to feel ashamed at the provincial life we are handed in our land of freedom, and at once be thankful that we are so endowed. Jung Chang explores her family so deeply that her subjects, such as her stoic father, a true believer in the Communist cause, and her grandmother, a veritable symbol through

Communist cause, and her grandmother, a veritable symbol through her bound feet of a time and place long gone, become indelibly etched upon the mind of the reader. By the end of Wild Swans, you will feel you know China and Ms. Chang and her family intimately. This book fulfills whatever you set out to obtain or attain when you devote time to reading. If you have never been afraid to crack a book, let this fall into your hands, enter your heart, and enrich your life and in the end, thank Jung Chang for opening your eyes. Thank you, Chang Jung.

Was this review helpful to you? ☐ YES ☐ NO

All Customer Reviews

Avg. Customer Review: ★★★★★

Number of Reviews: 109

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★★★★★ **Should have read it before my departure** April 22, 2000

Reviewer: **A reader** from Kingsport, Tennessee
I began reading this book while living in Shanghai, China as an English teacher. I didn't find time to finish it until I returned to the United States. I regret not finishing it while there. 'Wild Swans' not only informed me of the uncountable tragedies Chinese endured during their tumultuous 20th century, but helped me understand behaviours and traditions of the Chinese that I had difficulty understanding while living there. I believe I might have adapted more quickly to life in Shanghai had I read the book before I commenced my year and half teaching stint. "Wild Swans" should be required reading for anyone boarding an airplane headed for China -the number of arrogant and misinformed westerners giving all westerners a bad name would then be decreased.

Was this review helpful to you? ☐ YES ☐ NO

★★★★★ **best ever** April 18, 2000

Reviewer: **dr.hormaz dastoor** (see more about me) from Dubai,United Arab Emirates
Amongst all the books about 20th century china,i found this one to be most informative ,especially life during the communist period.It gives a thorough and day to day account of the cultural revolution.Question..why hasnt this classic been made into a movie instead of all the junk out there today.

Was this review helpful to you? ☐ YES ☐ NO

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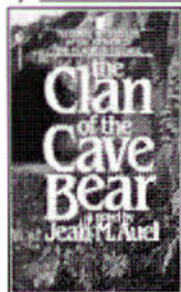
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☒ Not Rated☐ ★★★★★☐ ★★★★★☐ ★★★★★☐ ★★★★★☐ ★★★★★[Rate it](#)**The Clan of the Cave Bear**by [Jean M. Auel](#)**List Price:** \$7.99**Our Price:** \$6.39**You Save:** \$1.60 (20%)**Availability:** Usually ships within 24 hours.[See larger photo](#)**Paperback** - 495 pages Reissue edition (December 1, 1984)

Bantam Books; ISBN: 0553250426 ; Dimensions (in inches): 1.43 x 6.92 x 4.22

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Editorial Reviews**Amazon.com**

When her parents are killed by an earthquake, 5-year-old Ayla wanders through the forest completely alone. Cold, hungry, and badly injured by a cave lion, the little girl is as good as gone until she is discovered by a group who

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Donkey Kong 64
by Nintendo

lion, the little girl is as good as gone until she is discovered by a group who call themselves the Clan of the Cave Bear. This clan, left homeless by the same disaster, have little interest in the helpless girl who comes from the tribe they refer to as the "Others." Only their medicine woman sees in Ayla a fellow human, worthy of care. She painstakingly nurses her back to health--a decision that will forever alter the physical and emotional structure of the clan. Although this story takes place roughly 35,000 years ago, its cast of characters could easily slide into any modern tale. The members of the Neanderthal clan, ruled by traditions and taboos, find themselves challenged by this outsider, who represents the physically modern Cro-Magnons. And as Ayla begins to grow and mature, her natural tendencies emerge, putting her in the middle of a brutal and dangerous power struggle.

Although Jean Auel obviously takes certain liberties with the actions and motivations of all our ancestors, her extensive research into the Ice Age does shine through--especially in the detailed knowledge of plants and natural remedies used by the medicine woman and passed down to Ayla. Mostly, though, this first in the series of four is a wonderful story of survival. Ayla's personal evolution is a compelling and relevant tale. --Sara Nickerson --*This text refers to the hardcover edition of this title*

Synopsis

Story of the orphaned Ayla's struggle to fit in and survive in the period when Cro-Magnons and Neanderthals existed at the same time on the Earth.

Synopsis

The first book in the hugely successful "Earth's Children" series--now in hardcover at a popular price!. --*This text refers to the hardcover edition of this title*

Synopsis

In Auel's Earth's Children series, listeners meet a special heroine, the blond Ayla, adopted by a dark Neanderthal clan. 6 cassettes. --*This text refers to the audio cassette edition of this title*

From the Publisher

The stunning epic that stirred the imagination of millions. Here is a novel of awesome beauty and power. A moving saga about people, relationships and the boundaries of love. Through Jean Auel's magnificent storytelling, we are taken back to the dawn of mankind and swept up in the wonderful world of a very special heroine, Ayla. Her enthralling story is one we all can share. A natural disaster has left young Ayla alone, wandering, fending for herself in an unfamiliar land. One day, she is... [read more](#)

Top Customer Reviews

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful:



Clan of the Cave Bear

March 23, 2000

Reviewer: itrejos@yahoo.com from San José, Costa Rica
I read this book for the first time more than 10 years ago, and I found it fascinating. I have read it again from cover to cover at least twice since then. It is very well researched, and I couldn't put it down. I wish I knew where Ms. Auel got all the information she did on the herbs and plants that she describes in her book, that the characters (Iza and Ayla) use for medicine. Some of them (like the willow bark) I know for a fact were used, and I wonder if all of the other herbs and plants really work the way she describes... Guess I'll have to check on herb and plant books for that matter! In any case, I also read the other books of the series (The Valley of Horses, The Mammoth Hunters and Plains of Passage), and I regularly check to see if Ms. Auel has published another book of this series. Hurry Ms. Auel, there are a lot of us waiting to hear what happened to Ayla.

Was this review helpful to you? ☒ YES ☐ NO

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful:



Clan of the Cave Bear

April 7, 2000

Reviewer: [a head \(see more about me\)](#) from San Antonio, Texas
I've read Clan of the Cave Bear so many times, that I've had to buy another copy. Along with her other books in the series, this is a must for everyone's personal collection. Jean M Auel weaves so much historical data in between the story lines, in fact, it is an integral part of all that makes up Ayla's life. The strength of the heroine combined with her human limitations makes Ayla come alive for the reader. I am driven to find out as much about Ayla as I can in reading this book and in the three succeeding novels in the series that continue with Ayla's saga. The books are grand, epic tales of a young woman's growing up and maturing in prehistoric times. Losing her family in an earthquake, 5 year old Ayla sets out in search of other humans in a sparsely populated prehistoric Europe. A clan of Neanderthals stumble across an unconscious, lion mauled Ayla. The Medicine Woman of the group, Iza, cares for Ayla. The clan is initially wary of Ayla, the first of "the others" that they have encountered, but she is gradually accepted by them. She has much to overcome, and Clan of the Cave Bear concludes in line with Ayla's difficulties through out the entire book. The story is picked up in "Valley of the Horses". I recommend that you read the entire series, and then wait, like the rest of us Auel-o-philis for the next book in this series. It's been over ten years since the last book (Plains of Passage) and I think I can speak for everyone when I say: Please Publish SOON!

Was this review helpful to you? ☒ YES ☐ NO

All Customer Reviews

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Number of Reviews: 187

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful:



Clan of the Cave Bear

April 24, 2000

Reviewer: **lannaie** ([see more about me](#)) from Pittsburg, Texas
This is a truly touching book, in which you follow the life of Ayla, a girl born to the "Others", who is found by Iza, the top medicine woman of the Clan(aka cave people). You explore the feelings of the characters. Auel has created a wormhole into the past. Each character is distinct in itself, and you have a story outline both dramatic and explicit. When Creb\ Mog-ur performs his ceremonies, you feel as if you are there. It's like watching a movie, only deeper. You explore the humiliation of Creb's deformaty, the stubbornness of Broud, and the kindness and caring of Iza. When Ayla is discovered to be hunting against the Clan laws, you plead along with her against the death curse. This is a truly wonderfull book. There are some mature parts, so if you don't feel you can handle them, don't try. Once again, I strongly reccomend this book!

Was this review helpful to you? ☒ YES ☐ NO



what a fun series!

April 21, 2000

Reviewer: **pashax** ([see more about me](#)) from wash, dc
this book, and the rest of the series, came to me in a collection from a friend. i picked it up for some summer reading and read a book every several days until the end of the series. difficult to put down. i got very absorbed in the story. enjoyed the elements that were clearly related to joseph campbell's work. really enjoyed the sex parts too! reading about life lived that directly, that plainly, helped me to see how good i have it here in the u.s. if they didn't find food they didn't eat. i go to the suburban grocery store up the street and can choose from 13 kinds of apples (out of season!) and reject them for the slightest blemish. one night, during the third book or so, returning home late, my headlights caught five deer in the front yard. my first thought was--FOOD! WE'LL EAT! (and i'm not even a hunter). the later books seemed to suffer a little. perhaps victims of success? though i'd buy the next one in a second! hats off to ms. auel.

Was this review helpful to you? ☒ YES ☐ NO

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course of my life I have reached for mental, emotional, and spiritual shovels of various sizes and shapes—even a backhoe or two.

Children can learn early on to grasp those imaginary shovels—or any tool that works for them—gaining from their parents and the other adults around them the essential skills of problem solving and coping with adversity that build character in daily life. Life itself is the curriculum, as are history, literature, current events, and, especially, religious teachings.

Nelson Mandela derived inspiration and guidance when he studied the actions and words of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King. The lessons men and women have learned over thousands of years are available to anyone, in the form of fables, stories, poems, plays, proverbs, and scriptures that have stood the test of time. A wonderful new anthology of such writings is found in *A Call to Character*, edited by Colin Greer and Herbert Kohl.

You never know where you might find such guidance when you need it. One of Chelsea's and my favorite nursery rhymes summed up the absolute unpredictability and frequent unfairness of life: "As I was standing in the street / As quiet as could be / A great big ugly man came up / And tied his horse to me." I thought often of that rhyme during our first year in the White House: My father died, our dear friend Vince Foster killed himself, my mother-in-law lost her battle against breast cancer, and my husband and I were attacked daily from all directions by people trying to score political points. To deal with my feelings I could turn to my religious beliefs, my husband and family, and my friends.

I also sought out and found new ways of thinking

about my life and the challenges I faced. I read avidly about how my First Lady predecessors had played the hands dealt them during their turns in the spotlight. I reread favorite scriptures, quotations, and writings that had touched me in the past. I discovered new sources of support, inspiration, and clarity in books and people.

One of the people I encountered, through his writings and tapes, was the Reverend Henri Nouwen, a Jesuit priest and the author of meditations on his and our world's spiritual journey. His book *The Return of the Prodigal Son* analyzes that New Testament parable from the perspectives of the father and both his sons—the one who returns home after squandering his fortune and the dutiful older son who never left. One sentence hit me over the head like—well, like a shovel: "The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy."

I had never thought of gratitude as a habit or discipline before, and I discovered that it was immensely helpful to do so. When I found myself in a difficult situation, I began to make a mental list of all that I was grateful for—being alive and healthy for another day, loving and being loved by family and friends, experiencing the awesome privilege of working on behalf of my country and its citizens. By consciously reminding myself of my blessings, I could move myself from pessimism to optimism, from grief to hopefulness.

From the beginning, Bill and I have tried to equip Chelsea with her own batch of shovels. We have tried to help her to develop her own spiritual life. We have also tried to anticipate the challenges she will face and to assist her in meeting them. One of our chief worries, natu-

Bookshelf

Oprah reveals some of her favorites in her collection at home

A Return to Love

BY MARIANNE WILLIAMSON

This book helped me realize that there are only two emotions, love and fear. In every relationship, you're always moving toward one or the other.

Favorite quote: "In every moment, we teach either love or fear. As we demonstrate love towards others...we learn how to love more deeply."

To Kill a Mockingbird

BY HARPER LEE

Harper Lee's masterpiece — my favorite novel of all time — traces one lawyer's effort to defend a wrongly accused black man without sacrificing the innocence of his children.

Favorite quote: "There is one way in this country in which all men are created equal — there is one human institution that makes a pauper the equal of a Rockefeller, the stupid man the equal of an Einstein, and the ignorant man the equal of any college president. That institution, gentlemen, is a court."

The Bluest Eye

BY TONI MORRISON

Toni Morrison's brilliant novel tells the story of Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl who wants to be someone other than herself so much that it drives her crazy.

Favorite quote: "It had occurred to Pecola some time ago that if...those eyes of hers were different, that is to say, beautiful, she herself would be different.... If she looked different, beautiful, maybe Cholly would be different, and Mrs. Breedlove too. Maybe they'd say, 'Why, look at pretty-eyed Pecola. We mustn't do bad things in front of those pretty eyes.'"

Their Eyes Were Watching God

BY ZORA NEALE HURSTON

Zora Neale Hurston's classic is my favorite love story of all time. Janie Mae Crawford spends almost two decades with abusive, domineering men but eventually finds true love with Tea Cake. In the time they have together, he teaches her to open her heart to the world.

Favorite quote: "Everytime Ah see uh patch uh roses uh somethin' over sportin' they selves makin' out they pretty, Ah tell 'em 'Ah want yuh tuh see mah Janie sometime.' You must let de flowers see yuh sometimes, heah, Janie?"

Discover the Power Within You

BY ERIC BUTTERWORTH

This book changed my perspective on life and religion. Eric Butterworth teaches that God isn't "up there." He exists inside each one of us, and it's up to us to seek the divine within.

Favorite quote: "But the greatest mistake is in believing that we are 'only

human.'... We are human in expression but divine in creation and limitless in potentiality."

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

BY MAYA ANGELOU

Maya Angelou's autobiography was the first book I ever read that made me feel my life as a colored girl growing up in Mississippi deserved validation. I loved it from the opening lines (below).

Favorite quote: " 'What you looking at me for? I didn't come to stay...' Whether I could remember the rest of the poem or not was immaterial. The truth of the statement was like a wadded-up handkerchief, sopping wet in my fists, and the sooner they accepted it the quicker I could let my hands open and the air would cool my palms."

The Seat of the Soul

BY GARY ZUKAV

Gary Zukav believes that your intentions determine your actions and their consequences. Now I don't do anything without being clear about my intentions.

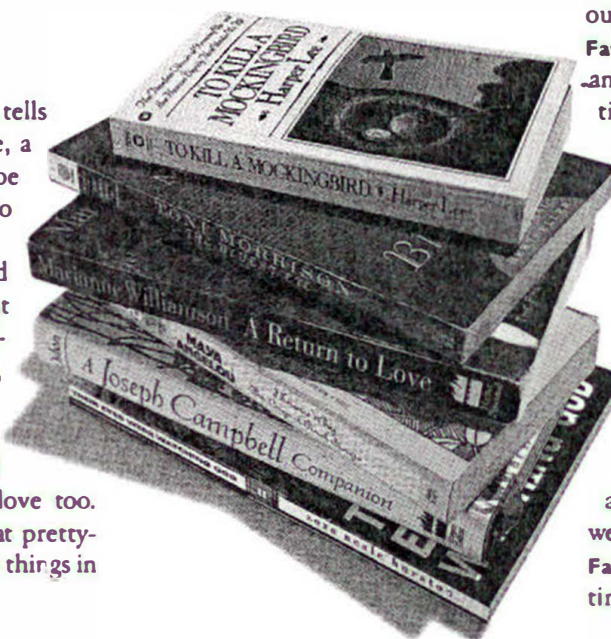
Favorite quote: "Every action, thought, and feeling is motivated by an intention, and that intention is a cause that exists as one with an effect.... In this most profound way, we are held responsible for our every action, thought and feeling, which is to say, for our every intention."

Reflections on the Art of Living: A Joseph Campbell Companion

EDITED BY DIANE K. OSBORN

Mythologist Joseph Campbell pulls together threads from various religions and cultures to create a blueprint of how we can find a true sense of self.

Favorite quote: "The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are." •



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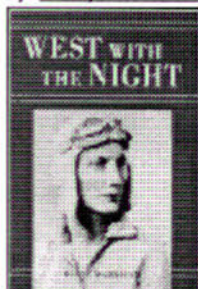
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West With the Night

by Beryl Markham



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Editorial Reviews

One of the most beautifully crafted books I have ever read, with some of the most poetic prose passages I could imagine, such as the following, resonating

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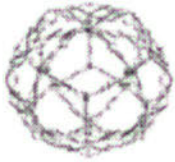
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most poetic prose passages I could imagine, such as the following, resonating with a stately and timeless quality so absent in our modern life:

There are all kinds of silences and each of them means a different thing. There is the silence that comes with morning in a forest, and this is different from the silence of a sleeping city. There is silence after a rainstorm, and before a rainstorm, and these are not the same. There is the silence of emptiness, the silence of fear, the silence of doubt. There is a certain silence that can emanate from a lifeless object as from a chair lately used, or from a piano with old dust upon its keys, or from anything that has answered to the need of a man, for pleasure or for work. This kind of silence can speak. Its voice may be melancholy, but it is not always so; for the chair may have been left by a laughing child or the last notes of the piano may have been raucous and gay. Whatever the mood or the circumstance, the essence of its quality may linger in the silence that follows. It is a soundless echo.

Born in England in 1902, Markham was taken by her father to East Africa in 1906. She spent her childhood playing with native Maruni children and apprenticing with her father as a trainer and breeder of racehorses. In the 1930s, she became an African bush pilot, and in September 1936, became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from east to west. --*This text refers to the hardcover edition of this title*

The Nation

With the skill of someone who has filled long nights with stories, Markham recounts her adventures--discoveries, rescues, and narrow escapes, the glint of an airplane abandoned in the desert, the look of a lion about to pounce.... Much more than a pilot's memoir, **West With the Night** is a wise, funny, and inspiring exploration of a life well lived. --*This text refers to the hardcover edition of this title*

Ernest Hemingway, in a letter to Maxwell Perkins

"...she has written so well, and marvellously well, that I was completely ashamed of myself as a writer...she can write rings around all of us...I wish you would get it and read it because it is really a bloody wonderful book."
--*This text refers to the hardcover edition of this title*

From AudioFile

Julie Harris's presentation of Beryl Markham's autobiography is an outstanding success for the audio format. Consider it an essential title for any collection. This is a superb example of the enhancement voice can give to text. The clarity and warmth of Harris's voice perfectly match Markham's exuberance and love of life. Her perfect diction glides smoothly over African names, and she successfully uses dialect and inflection for native characters. The haunting reflections of British East Africa... [read more](#)

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4 of 4 people found the following review helpful:

☆☆☆☆ **Absolutly spellbinding--it is a plane ride to another world** August 30, 1998

Reviewer: **A reader** from Los Angeles, CA, USA

I visited Kenya last year and saw this book all over the shelves, and I picked it up. Little did I know, I was picking up one of the best written and most evocative books of all time. I was swept away immediatly by her involving narrative and descriptions. And let me tell you, the descriptions capture the Kenyan landscape and people remarkably well. It is just as wonderful and mysterious as Markham writes. This book transported me to the dazzling age of the 1920's and 30's in Kenya--which is full of fascinating trailblazers. I read a lot of the novel outloud, and her thoughts seemed to become my thoughts. Her anecdotes and experiences are so poignant that they seem to shoot me right through the heart. I want to reread this novel again and again, it is wonderous. Hemingway was right when he said " it is a bloody wonderful book." If you like Markham, you should read Isak Dineson's classic Out of Africa. However, Markham does more soul-searching and delving into herself than Dineson does. You'll recognize some familiar charactars as well. Both are true stories!

Was this review helpful to you? ☒ YES ☐ NO

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful:

☆☆☆☆ **Beautiful prose** January 5, 2000

Reviewer: **Tony watson** (see more about me) from Sharjah, UAE

I picked this up in a garage sale, purely on the strength of the cover picture - it seemed like that face had seen and done a lot - which turns out to be absolutely true! More like poetry than prose, some of her descriptive passages have to be read more than once, just to let the feelings soak into your system. Ms Markham's early life is told in a matter-of-fact way, which takes it for granted that, when at 17, your father decides to leave Africa for Peru, you jump on your horse and head North, with no food, one change of underwear, little education, but a deep knowledge of horses and expect to land on your feet. Which is exactly what she does, co-incidentally meeting many yet-to-be-famous people on the way. Hunter; horse-trainer; aeronaut; most people would be happy to excel in any one of these professions, but Beryl does it all with surpassing ease. Her style is self-effacing and matter-of-fact; you would imagine that being 'moderately eaten' by a lion would warrant more than a couple of paragraphs, but it only gets included here, I suspect, on the strength of Bishon Singh's wonderful rhetoric in describing the event. She also has a knack of striking up instant and longlasting relationships with people from every race, creed and social status - I don't believe she even saw those differences; be he a Murani warrior or a colonial Governor, they both get treated to the same open-minded friendship. A book to read & read again.

Was this review helpful to you? ☒ YES ☐ NO

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★★★★★ **Stunning !**

May 2, 2000

Reviewer: **Barbara** ([see more about me](#)) from Columbia, SC, USA

There is controversy about who actually wrote this incredible book. Rumor has it that her third husband wrote this delightful autobiography. However, if the reader delves into Markham's short stories, her captivating prose holds up. And she wasn't anywhere near the third husband for those stories. I believe she wrote her works, and they are among the most enjoyable reads I have ever known.

Was this review helpful to you? ☐ YES ☐ NO

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★★ **The Wonders of the African Frontier**

March 13, 2000

Reviewer: **Michael** from Columbus, Ohio

Historic, personal, and romantic tales of a female pioneer in aviation fill the pages of *West with the Night*. It is beautifully written, poetry put into chapters to tell of the adventures of the developing African frontier. The book follows the life of the Beryl Markham, the author, giving the reader a view into the lives of her native friends, the small social world of the British settlers, and a young girl growing up as the result of the integrating cultures. She is, herself, both fresh and new, one of the first to develop a mindset of blended customs. Besides observing the profits of the British cultural invasion of East Africa, the reader is, all the while, taken on a non-stop ride of African adventures. Like a child, pulling anxiously at your hand, sprinting onward toward further exploration, Markham speeds us through dangers ranging from leopards to the risks of early flight in an unmapped land. It is a mind-boggling world of naturally flowing chaos, deep thought, admiral respect, and truly amazing people, entirely unimaginable to the modern American. Markham has seen it like no one before her and few after, and when she puts it to paper, the reader can see directly into her heart. A must read.

Was this review helpful to you? ☐ YES ☐ NO

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