



Isn't It Romantic: an entertainment

By Ron Hansen

Natalie Clairvaux, a gorgeous librarian, flees her native France and her less-than-faithful hunky fiancé, Pierre, to tour the United States. Her position as an expert on all things American at the Bibliotheque Nationale inspires Natalie to climb aboard a See America tour bus for an up-close-and-personal look at the offbeat. A frantic Pierre tracks her down in Omaha, but Natalie is not swayed. As she is delayed in Seldom, Nebraska (population 395), the story kicks into hijinks gear. Sweet eccentricities abound as the citizenry of Seldom take Natalie and Pierre under their wing, anointing them King and Queen of the town's upcoming three-day Revels. Misunderstandings; jealousy-inducing liaisons with the older, wealthy Dick Tupper and a luscious waitress named Iona; and a gas station owner who is a surprisingly sophisticated connoisseur of wine are enchanting.

Available at Wayne in Fiction

84, Charing Cross Road

By Helene Hanff

It all began with a letter inquiring about second-hand books, written by Helene Hanff in New York, and posted to a bookshop at 84, Charing Cross Road in London. As Helene's sarcastic and witty letters are responded to by the stodgy and proper Frank Doel of 84, Charing Cross Road, a relationship blossoms into a warm, charming, feisty love affair.

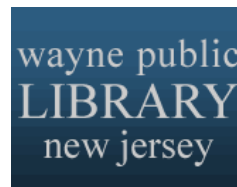
*Available at Wayne in
Non-Fiction at 818.54 HAN*

I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Notes on Returning to America after twenty years away

By Bill Bryson

After living in Britain for 20 years, humorist Bryson moved his family back to the United States and settled in a small New Hampshire town. His British editor convinced him to write a weekly newspaper column about his impressions of America. "Mostly I wrote about whatever little things had lately filled my days--a trip to the post office, the joy of having a garbage disposal for the first time, the glories of the American motel." This book is a collection of those pieces, charting Bryson's progress "from being bewildered and actively appalled in the early days of my return to being bewildered and generally charmed, impressed, and gratified now."

*Available at Wayne in Biography and at
Preakness in Large-Type at 973.92 BRY*



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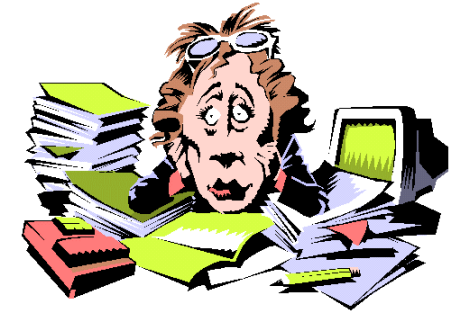
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Short on time? Being pulled in too many directions, but still like to read?



Here are some titles that are quick reads or can be read a little at a time.

"How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives."

~ Annie Dillard

"Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save."

~ Will Rogers

"How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives."

~ T.S. Eliot

Beauty

By Susan Wilson

When Alexandra Miller takes off for a remote spot in New Hampshire to paint Leland Crompton's portrait, nothing has prepared her for what's in store. The house is almost a castle, with its massive chimney, mullioned windows, and iron-work gate with wrought-iron roses. The housekeeper is unnerving. And Lee himself is hideously disfigured by a rare genetic disease. But in their long hours of work together deep in the wintry woods, Alix discovers that beneath Lee's disturbing exterior lies a true prince. Gradually, she realizes that she loves him. And he absolutely refuses to believe her.

Available at Wayne in Fiction & Large-Type



Step-Ball-Change

By Jeanne Ray

Ray is delightful both as author of this story of family life, marriage, and all the hills and valleys that go along and as narrator, two accomplishments that do not always go together. As Caroline, owner of a dance studio, deals with the schedule of her public defender husband and looks forward to retirement with him, she is also confronted with her sister appearing on her doorstep, having left her husband; a daughter suddenly engaged to the scion of one of Raleigh's wealthiest families, resulting in the question of how to pay for a megawedding; a home under perpetual construction owing to a weak foundation; and her sister's small yet vicious dog. Ray's pacing and energy fit the story perfectly. With humor, grace, and touching insights, this production is wonderful, making listeners wish that they really knew the family. And if so, life would never be dull.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction and Paperback

Watermelon

By Marian Keyes

Claire Webster, heroine of this breezy Irish bestseller, thinks hubby James is the man of her dreams until he ditches her for an older woman (Claire herself is 29) two hours after their daughter is born. Mother and child repair to Dublin, where there's hope of solace and sustenance in the bosom of an eccentric family, while Claire downsizes from watermelon to wisp and struggles over the hurdles of blues and booze. When she attracts a handsome young lover and considers dumping the suddenly repentant James, it's clear a happy ending's in sight. Or is it? There are a few surprises and plenty of sassy girl talk in this slick if sometimes silly take on what it's like to be female. Much of the hilarity generated by Claire's funky family airhead sisters who squabble over clothes and men, a mother who'd rather watch soap operas than cook, a father perpetually bewildered by the women in his life wears thin, but readers will identify with Claire's flaws, applaud her irreverent wit and rejoice at her triumphant recovery.

Available at Wayne in Fiction & Audio-Cassette



Summer

By Edith Wharton

Summer is the story of Charity Royall, a child of mountain moonshiners adopted by a family in a poor New England town, who has a passionate love affair with Lucius Harney, an educated man from the city. Wharton broke the conventions of women's romantic fiction by making Charity a thoroughly independent modern woman—in touch with her emotions and sexuality, yet kept from love and the larger world she craves by the overwhelming pressures of heredity and society.

Available at Wayne in Fiction & Audio-CD

Dress Your Family in Denim & Corduroy

By David Sedaris

Sedaris has a knack for turning heart-breaking antics into moments of outrageous humor. This collection includes two hilarious vignettes about his younger brother Paul, the foul-mouthed, hardworking, salt-of-the-earth hope for the Sedaris clan. The first story about Paul chronicles his engagement and subsequent marriage to a girl from the North, which provides a 50-50 chance for an improvement in the family gene pool should they have any offspring. "Baby Einstein" relates the pregnancy and birth of this anxiously awaited child. In one tale that features his mother, she cozies up to a rich old aunt in anticipation of an inheritance, and in another she locks her children outside on the fifth snow day home from school. It's a hallmark of true comedic wit when stories can be heard more than once and still generate laughter.

**Available at Wayne & Preakness;
Call #: 814.54 SED**

The Ladies of Missalonghi

By Colleen McCullough

Sometimes fairy tales can come true—even for plain, shy spinsters like Missy Wright. Neither as pretty as cousin Alicianor as domineering as mother Drusilla, she seems doomed to a quiet life of near poverty at Missalonghi, her family's pitifully small homestead in Australia's Blue Mountains. But It's a brand new century—the twentieth—a time for new thoughts and bold new actions. And Missy Wright is about to set every self-righteous tongue in the town of Byron wagging. Because she has just set her sights on a mysterious, mistrusted and unsuspecting stranger ... who just might be Prince-Charming in disguise.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction