

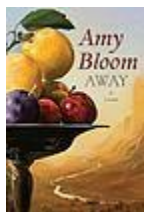
## LIBRARY STAFF SUGGESTIONS What We Read in 2009

Welcome to our fifth annual list of (some of the) books we read (or listened to) in the past year. Happy New Year from the University of Idaho Library staff.

### --Rami Attebury recommends--

#### **Away, by Amy Bloom. (UI Library BROWSING BLOOM)**

After she witnesses the massacre of her family, a young Russian woman, Lillian makes her way to America. Arriving with nothing but the clothes on her back, she works her way up the economic ladder by becoming a mistress to a rich man and to his even richer father. Seeming to possess a trauma-induced lack of scruples and emotions, she hears a rumor from a newly-arrived cousin that her young daughter survived the massacre and was adopted by neighbors who then fled to Siberia. Suddenly, Lillian launches on an extraordinary campaign to find her little girl. Deciding it would be cheaper to travel west across America and cross the Bering Sea, she endures discomfort and indignities in an effort to reunite with her child. The author has created a unique protagonist



### --Cathy Merickel recommends--

**A Stone Bridge North: Reflections in a New Life, by Kate Maloy (non-fiction)** Excellent reading for any woman in her 50s.



**Every Last Cuckoo, a novel by Kate Maloy**  
Also a good read for the older generation.

### --Deborah Green recommends--

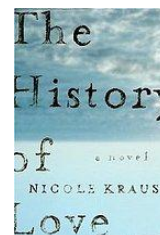
**The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger (UI Library Main Stacks PS3564.I362T56 2003b)** A touching and memorable love story. The movie does not do the book any justice.

**The Ghosts of Kerfol by Deborah Noyes**  
Inspired by Edith Wharton's story of Kerfol; five connected tales set in the same haunted manor over the centuries.

**St. Ives: Being the Adventures of a French Prisoner in England by Robert Louis Stevenson.** A well written classic adventure.

**Mister B. Gone by Clive Barker** A typical gruesome Clive Barker tale from the point of view of a devil who gets out of hell and roams the European countryside.

**The History of Love: A Novel by Nicole Krauss (UI Library Main Stacks PS3611.R38H57 2005)** A beautifully written story of four characters whose lives are all connected by a long lost book.



**Faces of Fear: A Novel by John Saul** A dark and chilling tale that weaves plastic surgery, social websites and teenage vanity.

**The Water is Wide by Pat Conroy (UI Library Main Stacks LC2852.Y3C6)** Conroy's autobiographical tale of his time teaching on South Carolina's Yamacraw (Daufuskie) Island, in the 1960 at the time of integration.

**Necroscope by Brian Lumley.** A chilling, untraditional tale of vampires, ESP and time travel. It is set in the Cold War between Britain and the USSR.



**Necroscope II: Vamphyri by Brian Lumley.** The second book provides more historical background on the characters from the first novel, still very well written and equally as chilling.

**The Face of a Stranger by Anne Perry. (UI Library Main Stacks PR6066.E693F3 1990)** A Victorian police detective following the character William Monk.

### --Julie Monroe recommends--

**Timothy Egan's** book about the 1910 forest fire, **The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America. (UI Library Main Stacks E757.E325 2009)** Should be required reading for anybody interested in the history of the Inland Northwest and natural resource policy. Egan really knows how to tell a story: lots of action and larger-than-life characters.

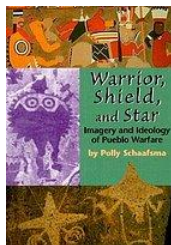


**Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers: The Story of Success* (UI Library Main Stacks BF637.S8G533 2008 )** pretty much explodes the American myth that success depends solely on an individual's character. In this book, Gladwell explains several factors that contribute to the extreme success enjoyed by Bill Gates, the Beatles, and Canadian hockey players!

Another one I really liked: ***The Uneasy Chair* by Wallace Stegner; *A Biography of Bernard DeVoto*. (UI Library Main Stacks PS3507.E867Z89)** Very readable biography of historian and environmentalist Bernard DeVoto.

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**-- Nathan Bender recommends--**



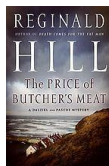
***Warrior, Shield, and Star: Imagery and Ideology of Pueblo Warfare*, by Polly Schaafsma. (NIC Stacks E99.P9S345 2000)**

A thought provoking interpretation of rock art of the American Southwest, which challenges the concept of the "peaceful Pueblo peoples."

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**--Charlotte Baldwin recommends--**

***Lavinia*, by Ursula K. Le Guin (UI Library Browsing Le Guin)**



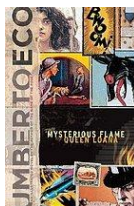
***The Price of Butcher's Meat*, by Reginald Hill**




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**--Geoff Wood recommends--**

**Umberto Eco and Geoffrey Brock. *The Mysterious Flame of Queen Loana; An Illustrated Novel* (UI Library Main Stacks PQ4865.C6M5713 2005)** Best book I've read this year.

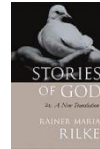


**Salman Rushdie. *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (UI Library Main Stacks PR9499.3.R8H37 1991)**

**Patricia Highsmith: the Ripley novels**

**Naoki Urasawa's 20<sup>th</sup> Century Boys** (best manga ever written)

**Cheng'en Wu; Anthony C. Yu (trans). *Journey to the West* (UI Library Main Stacks PL2697.H75E596 1977)**



**Rainer Maria Rilke. *Stories of God* (UI Library Main Stacks PT2635.I65 V613 2003)**

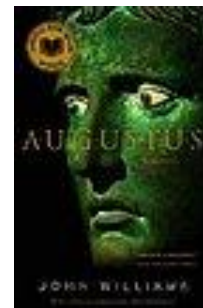
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**--Ron Force recommends--**

**Tim Egan's *The Big Burn*; *Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America*. (UI Library Main Stacks E757.E325 2009)** covers the history of Idaho's August 1910 firestorm that burned three million acres, including most of the city of Wallace. He shows how it secured the status of the United States Forest Service, the National Forest system, and the conservation movement. He weaves the stories of individuals into the narrative, the famous, like Ed Pulaski, and the little-known, like Pinkie Adair of Moscow. Many of the sites can be visited today, adding interest for the residents of the Palouse.

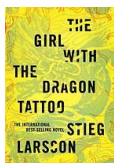
I ran across the name of **John Williams** in a list of excellent, but neglected, authors. Williams taught English at Smith and founded the writing program at the University of Denver. His 1972book ***Agustus* (UI Library Main Stacks PS3545.I5286A85)**

purports to be a history of the reign of Agustus Caesar, nee Octavian assembled from excerpts, letters, and fragments of the writings of his contemporaries, such a Cicero, Horace, Virgil, and his relatives, friends, and children. The book moves through the even ts following the assassination of Julius Caesar, the civil wars of succession, his consolidation of power and stabilization of the frontiers of empire, peace and prosperity following. All commentators have different views of his motivation and character. The end of the book is a long letter from Agustus to an old friend on the eve of his death, giving his views on philosophy, political and personal power and what his service to his country has cost him in his personal life. It's an interesting and gracefully written book that won the National Book Award in 1973.



--Breanna Watson recommends--

***Tales from Outer Suburbia* by Shaun Tan.**  
(Latah County Library District (Moscow) – JUV FIC TAN)



***The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson.**  
(UI Library - BROWSING LARSSON)

***The Savage* by David Almond.** (Latah County Library District (Moscow) – JUV FIC ALMOND)

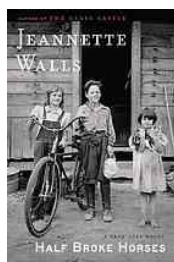
--Barb Jordan recommends--

***The Art of Racing in the Rain*, by Garth Stein.**(LCSC Library PS3569.T3655 A88 2008)

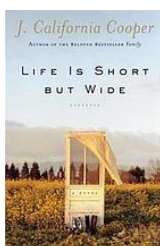
This is a delightful book written from the perspective of the family dog, Enzo. You can't help but love this dog who is intelligent (he watches lots of tv), loyal, and practically human (he is sure he is destined to come back as a man). This is a funny and bittersweet story of family, love, and hope.

***Half Broke Horses*, by Jeannette Walls**  
(LCSC Library Browsing Fic Wal 2009; NIC Library PS3623.A3644H35 2009)

Jeanette Wall, the author of ***The Glass Castle***, brings us the story of her maternal grandmother, Lily Casey Smith. This book, told in the voice of Lily, is a biographical novel of a strong and capable woman of the early 1900s. We are also given some insight into the upbringing and personality of Lily's daughter, the dysfunctional mother in Wall's earlier book.



**J. California Cooper**

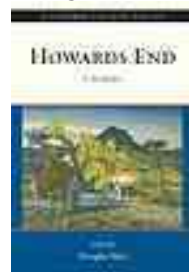


I have read several books by this author during the past year. Among these is ***Life is Short but Wide*** (UI Library BROWSING COOPER) and ***The Wake of the Wind***. Cooper writes of the struggles of African Americans from slavery times to current times. Her books never disappoint me

--Marian Murta Bell recommends--

***Howards End* by E.M. Forester** (UI Library Main Stacks PR6011.O58H7 )

I love tales of class and culture. ***Howards End*** is the saga of three intertwined families, the Schlegels, the Wilcoxes and the Basts in turn of the century England. If you've ever experienced the clash of families when romance is discovered, this is the book for you! It is full of witty repartee-dialogue that made the Merchant-Ivory film, ***Howards End***, so engaging. If you loved the movie, read the book! It is a powerful commentary on the hypocritical social values of the time.



--Judy Bielenberg recommends--

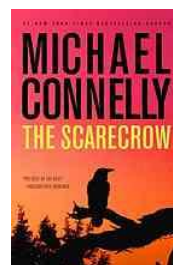
Here are some of the books I've downloaded and "read" on my MP3:

Books by **Margart Maron**

- ***Hard Row***
- ***Up Jumps the Devil***
- ***Winter's Child***
- ***Rituals of the Season***
- ***Death's Half-Acre***
- ***Storm Track***
- ***Slow Dollar***
- ***High Country Fall***

These were actually the "real" thing:

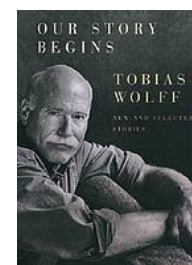
***Booby trap :an Odelia Grey mystery*, by Sue Ann Jaffarian** (UI Library BROWSING JAFFARIAN)



**Michael Connelly.**  
***Scarecrow*, a novel.** (UI Library BROWSING CONNELLY)

--Cort Northrop recommends--

I straddled 2009 & 2010 reading a wonderful collection of 31 short stories, ***Our Story Begins* by Tobias Wolff.** (UI Library BROWSING WOLFF) I'd read his PEN/Faulkner award winning novella ***The Barracks Thief*** many years ago and when I spotted ***Our Story Begins*** on Powell's discount shelf, I couldn't resist. I highly recommend it.



--Diane Prorak recommends--

**Oryx and Crake**, Margaret Atwood (UI Library Main Stacks PR9199.3.A807 2003)

**The Bonesetter's Daughter**, Amy Tan (UI Library Main Stacks PS3570.A48B6 2001)



**Joy Luck Club**, Amy Tan (UI Library Main Stacks PS3570.A48J6 1989) (UI Library Main Stacks PS3570.A48J6 1989)

**Omnivore's Dilemma; A Natural History of Four Meals** by Michael Pollan (UI Library Main Stacks GT2850.P65 2006)

**Slumdog millionaire : originally published as Q & A**, by Vikas Swarup

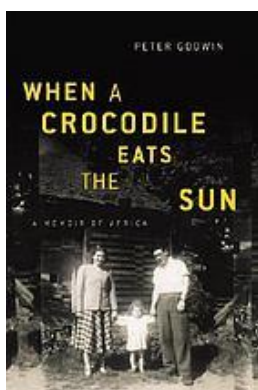


**The Other**, by David Guterson. (UI Library BROWSING GUTERSON)

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--Nancy Young & Jennifer O'Laughlin recommend--

**When a Crocodile Eats the Sun; A Memoir of Africa**, by Peter Godwin. (UI Library Main Stacks DT2999.G63A3 2007)



"Traces how the author routinely traveled between his Manhattan home to Zimbabwe to check on his aging parents, visits during which he witnessed the African region's dramatic descent into social and political turmoil." (Summary from WorldCat) Everyone in our book group agreed this was

one of the best we read during 2009.

--Gail Eckwright recommends--

**Kim Barnes: A Country Called Home** (UI Library BROWSING BARNES)

**Brandon Schrand: Ender's Hotel; a memoir.** (UI Library BROWSING SCHRAND)

**Molly Gloss: Hearts of Horses** (UI Library BROWSING GLOSS)

These 2 local (Barnes and Schrand, UI Faculty) and one regional (Gloss's home is in Portland) authors have made impressive contributions to contemporary American literature.

Barnes' **A Country Called Home** is peopled with individuals I want to know better. Her well-crafted plot delivers the goods in a contemporary story of love, loss, and redemption.

Barnes was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for a previous memoir; and she received the coveted 2009 PEN USA award for **A Country Called Home**.



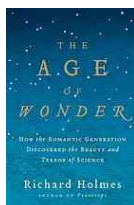
Schrand's memoir recounts his early life, defined by his years living at and helping family run the *Ender's Hotel*. Engaging storytelling with plenty of regional references to satisfy all Idahoans. Schrand has received numerous awards for his work.

Gloss's **Hearts of Horses** introduces readers to Martha Lessen, an American cowgirl/farmhand, circa 1917. Lessen's roots grow deep in the northeastern Oregon foothills; her sometimes difficult, sometimes tedious, but always meaningful work opens yet another window onto the early 20<sup>th</sup> century west.

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--Nancy Sprague recommends--

**Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science**, by Richard Holmes. (UI Library Main Stacks Q127.G4H65 2008)



I enjoyed this book – it seemed more like a novel than a history of science at times. The author brings a sense of adventure to the biographies of astronomers William and Caroline Herschel, botanist and explorer Joseph Banks, and other prominent scientists and writers of the late 1700s and early 1800s.

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