

LIBRARY STAFF SUGGESTIONS What We Read in 2006

Welcome to our second annual list of good books we read in the past year. Happy New Year from the University of Idaho Library staff.

--Ben Hunter--



***In Persuasion Nation* by George Saunders (BROWSING SAUNDERS)**

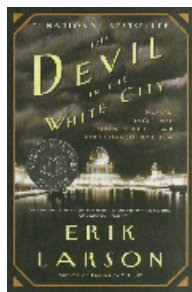
A collection of short stories presenting a futuristic, dystopian view of our media-saturated, hyperconsumerist future. Funny, bizarre, frightening and surreal.

***The Courtier and the Heretic: Leibniz, Spinoza, and the Fate of God in the Modern World*, by Matthew Stewart (UI Library Main Stacks [B2599.G63S74 2006](#))**

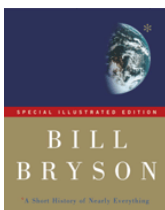
A surprisingly interesting read about the meeting between 17th century philosophers Leibniz and Spinoza. It takes place well over 300 years ago, but many of the political, religious and philosophical issues of the time are still being struggled with today.

--MaryJane Bailey--

***The Devil in the White City*, by Erik Larson ([Internet HV6248.M8 L37 2004](#) and NIC Stacks [HV6248.M8L37 2003](#))**



--MaryJane Bailey and Theresa Dahmen--

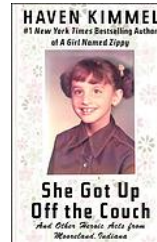


***A Short History of Nearly Everything*, by Bill Bryson (UI Library Main Stacks [Q162.B88 2003](#))**

An excellent book; I highly recommend it. (Theresa)

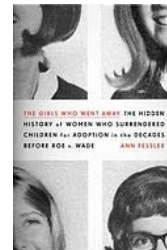
--Nancy Young--

***She Got Up Off The Couch And Other Heroic Acts from Mooreland, Indiana*, by Haven Kimmel. (UI Library Main Stacks [PS3611.I46Z474 2006](#))**



Second memoir from the author of *A Girl Named Zippy*. Funny, touching story of growing up in a family as strange as yours or mine. Laughter and love outweigh disappointment and depression; without sentimentality or self-pity. Quite an achievement.

***The Girls Who Went Away: The Hidden History of Women Who Surrendered Children for Adoption in the Decades before Roe v. Wade*, by Ann Fessler (UI Library Main Stacks [HV875.55.F465 2006](#))**

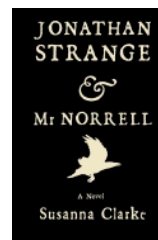


In the mid 20th century, over a million and a half babies were given up for adoption, many never to be spoken of again. Until this book.

--Debra Spidal--

***Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell* by Susanna Clarke. (UI Library Main Stacks Call Number: [PR6103.L375J65 2004](#))**

A first novel, Victorian about the practical country. pits Mr. Jonathan sole magicians in at that time.

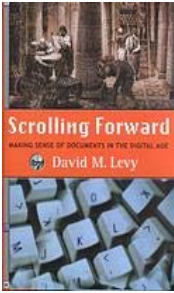


it is set in England and is return of magic to the Specifically it Norrell against Strange, the remaining England proper The story is

complicated and we learn that things are not always what they seem. To say more would be unfair to those who enjoy a good tale of mystery, love, and magic.

--Nathan Bender--

***Scrolling Forward: Making Sense of Documents in the Digital Age*, by David**



M. Levy (UI Library Main Stacks [P214.L48 2001](#))

A book to read slowly and to savor. Levy leads us from cuneiform marks on clay tablets to today's digital documents. He raises questions such as how has the technology movement

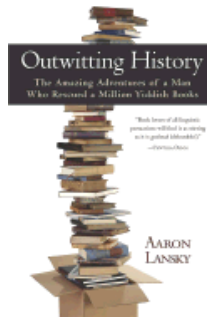
impacted us, do we have more time or less, and do we have time to read? Well worth reading and thinking about.

***The Tom Quick Legends*, by Vernon Leslie. Middletown, New York: T. Emmett Henderson, 1977. (Not at UI, but WSU has it: [WSU Holland & Terrell F157.D4 Q525](#))**

Read this book this year. It is of interest as it tells local tales of a frontiersman famous as an Indian slayer, who specialized in ambushing and tricking/killing Delaware Indians in the Delaware river valleys of northern New Jersey/eastern Pennsylvania/southern New York. It is of note that Liver-Eating Johnson (aka Jeremiah Johnson) grew up in this area as a child, who then in turn became an Indian killer of the Rocky Mountains of Montana and Wyoming.

***Outwitting History: The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books*, by Aaron Lansky (UI Library Main Stacks Call Number: [Z987.L25 2004](#))**

One hates to use the word delightful but in this case it is appropriate. The true story of how one young college student set out to save a handful of books in Yiddish and now runs a multi-million dollar non-profit committed to preserving Yiddish literature throughout the world. Quick to read and thoroughly enjoyable.



--Barb Jordan--

***Saving Fish From Drowning*, by Amy Tan (BROWSING TAN)**

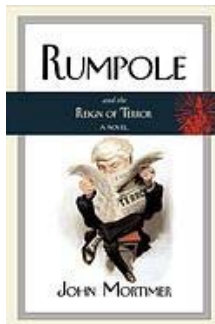
Interesting look at the Burmese culture.

--Rochelle Smith--

***The Virgin and the Gipsy* by D. H. Lawrence (UI Library Main Stacks [PR6023.A93V5](#))**

Lawrence's longer works tend to drag in my opinion, but I love his novellas, and discovered this one by accident in a used bookstore! His gift for description, of the natural world, of social and class mores and of the inner yearnings of his characters, is unparalleled.

--Marion Murta-Bell--



***Rumpole and the Reign of Terror*, by John Mortimer (BROWSING MORTIMER)**

I like the theme of "innocent until proven guilty." It is set in post 9/11 London. Also, Hilda (Rumpole's wife) has

bought a laptop and is writing her memoirs.

***Through the Narrow Gate*, by Karen Armstrong (NIC Stacks [BX4668.3.A75A3 2005](#))**

I could hardly bear to put this book down once I'd started it, it sucked me in so completely, an experience as rare as it is pleasurable. And if you like Armstrong's memoir of entering a Catholic convent in England in the early 1960's, there's a sequel, *The Spiral Staircase*, to look forward to!

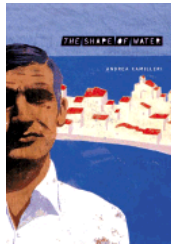
***The Great Fires*, by Jack Gilbert (UI Library Main Stacks [PS3513.I419G74 1994](#))**

I was introduced to Gilbert's poetry this year, and he's amazing; dark, sexy, mournful, romantic, witty, lonely, a willful exile. I can't keep away from this book.

--Mike Pollastro--

I've been reading several books in a series by **Barbara Hambly**, mysteries with the protagonist being Benjamin January, a free man of color, set in New Orleans in the 1830's or so. The first I read was ***A Free Man of Color***, a worthy beginning to the series. ***Sold Down the River*** ([UI Library Main Stacks PS3558.A4215S65 2000](#)) was also very worthwhile reading. Historical setting and details complement the intensity of the latter parts of each book.

I should probably keep this series to myself until I finish all of them, but all of the books in a detective series by **Andrea Camilleri**, with anti-hero protagonist, police inspector Salvo



Montalbano, set in Sicily, are delightful with many humorous touches. Start at the beginning with ***The Shape of Water*** ([UI Library Main Stacks PQ4863.A3894F6713 2002](#)) and you'll be hooked as I am.

The other book I enjoyed greatly was a classic about baseball: ***The Glory of Their Times; the story of the early days of baseball told by the men who played it***, by **Laurence Ritter**, a collection of interviews of players mostly from the early part of the 20th century.