

Literary Nonfiction

700 Sundays by Billy Crystal (BIO CRYSTAL)

Cooking and Food

Cookoff: Recipe Fever in America by Amy Sutherland (641.5973 SUT)

Julie and Julia by Julie Powell (641.5092 POW)

Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World by Mark Kurlansky (333.95 KUR)

History

Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling by Ross King (759.5 KIN)

Bachelor Girl: The Secret History of Single Women in the Twentieth Century by Betsy Israel (305.48 ISR)

Strange Red Cow and other curious classified ads from the past by Sara Bader (659.132 BAD)

Pop Culture

Positively Fifth Street: Murderers, Cheetahs and Binion's World Series of Poker by James McManus (794.412 McM)

Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser (394.1 SCH)

Essays

Leave Me Alone, I'm Reading by Maureen Corrigan (028.9 COR)

Heavy Words Lightly Thrown by Chris Roberts (398.8 ROB)

Appeal Factors of Literary Nonfiction:

- True Crime—appeals to those who like mysteries, police procedurals and suspense
- Travel—readers gain an insider's knowledge of a culture or country
- Spirituality—readers may enjoy the story that reflects some enlightenment or may be searching for personal growth
- True Adventure—readers participate vicariously in adventures they might not otherwise take
- Politics—with varying viewpoints, readers have the opportunity to form or reform opinions
- Science—appeals by making the hugely complex world of science more human and in scale with readers' daily lives
- Humor—offers a relief from stress; everyone needs a laugh once in a while!
- Biographies/Memoirs—readers may enjoy the challenges faced by the subject; books are character-driven
- Cooking—readers may learn a new recipe or gain confidence to experiment with food
- Essays—readers may sample essays to discover topics or authors to pursue further

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Literary
Nonfiction:
Nonfiction that
reads like Fiction



Compiled by Librarians
Tricia and Jennifer

Literary Nonfiction: Nonfiction that reads like Fiction

True Crime

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote
(364.1523 CAP)

Devil in the White City by Erik Larson
(364.1523 LAR)

Under the Banner of Heaven by Jon Krakauer (289.33 KRA)

Green River, Running Red by Ann Rule
(364.1523 RUL)

Travel

Angry Wind: Through Muslim Black Africa by Truck, Bus, Boat and Camel by Jeffrey Taylor (916.604 TAY)

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt (975.8 BER)

City of Falling Angels by John Berendt
(945.31 BER)

Travels with Charley by John Steinbeck
(917.304 STE)

Under the Tuscan Sun by Frances Mayes (914.5 MAY)

Spirituality

The Cloister Walk by Kathleen Norris
(255 NOR)

The Spontaneous Fulfillment of Desire by Deepak Chopra (128 CHO)

Traveling Mercies by Anne Lamott
(813.54 LAM)

True Adventure

The Perfect Storm: a True Story of Men Against the Sea by Sebastian Junger
(974.4 JUN)

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

(796.52 KRA)

Shadow Divers by Robert Kurson
(940.54 KUR)

No Horizon is So Far by Ann Bancroft and Liv Arneson (919.8904 ARN)

Politics

Profiles in Courage by John F. Kennedy
(920 KEN)

All the President's Men by Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward (364.132 BER)

Science

Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking by Malcolm Gladwell
(153.44 GLA)

The Seashell on the Mountaintop by Alan Cutler (550.9 CUT)

The Botany of Desire by Michael Pollan
(306.45 POL)

Krakatoa: the Day the World Exploded by Simon Winchester (551.21 WIN)

The Map That Changed the World by Simon Winchester (550.92 WIN)

The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat by Oliver W. Sacks (616.8 SAC)

Stiff: the Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach (611 ROA)

The Right Stuff by Tom Wolfe
(629.4 WOL)

Humor

Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris
(817.54 SED) or anything by author

We Thought You Would be Prettier by Laurie Notaro or anything by author

I'm a Stranger Here Myself by Bill Bryson (973.92 BRY)

Immigrant Experience

The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts by Maxine Hong Kingston (BIO Kingston)

Biographies/Memoir

An American Childhood by Annie Dillard (BIO DILLARD)

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank (BIO FRANK)

The Mapmaker's Wife: a True Tale of Love, Murder and Survival in the Amazon by Robert Whitaker (981 WHI)

Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare by Stephen Greenblatt (822.33 SHA)

The Seven Story Mountain by Thomas Merton

Spygirl: True Adventures from My Life as a Private Eye by Amy Gray (363.289 GRA)

Driving Mr. Albert by Michael Paterniti
(616.07092 PAT)

The Tender Bar by J.R. Moehringer

Marley and Me by John Grogan

The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion (BIO DIDION)

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance by Robert Pirsig (BIO PIRSIG)